

TOMORROW

If music... Bernard Levin suffers assault at the hands of Anton Webern - and hits back.

Be the food... Eat, drink - and have a beautiful table. Sir Roy Strong considers the epergne and other adornments.



Of love... Sir John Summerson reflects on the architecture of the Thirties and wonders why some people love it so much.

Play on... Why London is swinging again.

Give me... The beauty of California and the romance of Hawaii.

Excess... Attempts to outlaw video nasties are welcome, but parliamentarians should beware of going too far.

Lawson is foiled on power price

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has again failed to secure a 3 per cent rise in the price of electricity. The Cabinet decided not to take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council to increase prices, but a 2 per cent rise is likely.

Pound rises

Sterling rose to 1.4225 against the dollar, up 55 points, as West Germany's central bank again intervened heavily on foreign exchange markets.

Nanny demand

The prosecution at the Italian trial of the Scottish nanny, Carol Compton, demanded a seven-year jail term for arson and attempted murder.



Time please

Managers employed by a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary will strike today and shut 280 pubs in the North. The action could spread over Christmas and New Year.

Hard to swallow

Mr Edwin Meece, the White House counsellor, has caused a political storm by making derogatory remarks about America's hungry.

£170m bid

Hanson Trust last night launched a £170m cash takeover bid for London Brick, Britain's sole maker of flat-roof house bricks.

Leader page 15
Letters: On Antarctica, from Mr Julian Amery, MP; nuclear winter, from Dr Norman Myers, and Professor Sir Frederick Warner; arts subsidies, from Mr Robert Jackson, MP. Leading articles: European budget, censorship in time of war, glue sniffing.
Features, pages 12-14
Conveyancing: why the solicitors must put their house in order, Roger Boyes describes Lech Walesa's plans to influence Poland's future; The cranes that keep flying into trouble, Spectrum; The Connery code, Friday Page; Shakespearean struggles, Obituary, page 16
Lord Amulree, Dr Stanley Clotworthy, Mr Theodore Crombie

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Blocking of budget rebate sharpens conflict with EEC

By Ian Murray in Strasbourg and Anthony Bevins in London

To the impotent fury of all British Euro-MPs, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday voted to block payment of rebates due to Britain and West Germany, while passing a £15,500m budget for the Community next year. That is a tiny £26m less than the Community's resources in 1984.

In London Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, sharpened the threat that Britain might withhold payments from the Community if the £457m rebate was not paid by the end of March, the official British deadline.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons, in reply to a challenge from Mr Neil Kinnock, that she had been "greatly disappointed" by the European Parliament vote earlier in the day to block the repayment.

The Parliament has left the door open for the money to be handed over by the March deadline, but for that to happen member states will have to agree to reforms similar to those which failed to win any kind of support at the abortive Athens summit.

Legally the budget is suspect, and it may yet be challenged in the courts either by the Council of Ministers or the British Government.

The rebate due to Britain, and the £91m for West Germany, were agreed during the Stuttgart summit last June as net payments in recognition of the fact that both countries were paying more than their proper share of the cost of running the Community.

British MEPs reacted angrily. "The Parliament has shown a staggering display of political insensitivity and discrimination", Mr Neil Balfour told the assembly. "From now on you have lost the support of every single directly-elected British member of this Parliament."

That support was being withdrawn "with total justification and real anger", Mr Balfour, the Conservative

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spokesman on budgetary affairs, has been criticized in the past for his over-conciliatory approach.

Not to be outdone in the invective, Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour group, described the Parliament's vote as "petty and hypocritical". The British were not responsible for the failure at Athens, she said, yet they alone were being asked to pay for it.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative group, was on the telephone to Downing Street at the moment the vote was over. He had been warned when he called the previous evening that Mrs Thatcher would be very angry if the money was frozen. He tried to put the dispute into perspective.

"I am quite hopeful that in the end it is not a bad day's work", he said. "It may tend to speed up the decision - which we have been seeking for so long."

The Conservative group had gone into the session trying hard to be conciliatory. Most members abstained when Mrs Castle's resolution to reject the entire budget was put. She won only marginal support from the entire Socialist group for her view that "this Parliament is participating in a con trick on the people of Europe".

When the vote to freeze the British money was taken, however, Conservatives and Labour members voted together, with four Danes, three French and one West German, to honour the promise to pay.

At that point, Mr Andrew Pearce, the Conservative MEP for Cheshire, West, told the assembly that they were storing up trouble for themselves in the future. None of the 54 million people in Britain, he said, could understand why one of the poorer states in the community was being expected to finance richer states.

An attempt by the Conservatives then to reject the entire budget failed by 241 votes to 111. In consequence, the group voted in protest against every other part of the budget.

This stung Mrs Castle to complain that the Conservatives were voting against money which was earmarked to help create jobs in Britain. "They sat there like sulky little boys who have lost a cricket match and who then say 'I have taken away my bat'."

The budget will not be adopted until it is signed by Mr Piet Dierckx, the president of the assembly. He is meant to do this.

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NGA decides to halt mass pickets

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided last night that there will be no return to industrial action in the six-month-old dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger Group newspapers and no more mass picketing of the plant at Warrington, Cheshire.

The NGA national council, meeting in Bedford, agreed, however, that it would continue the dispute despite the withdrawal of TUC support for industrial action in contravention of the Government's labour laws.

It condemned the decision of the TUC General Council to "sell us down the river" and agreed unanimously to continue the campaign for a closed shop and reinstatement of the dismissed "Stockport six". But it will adopt a less militant stance and will ask for support from the unions that backed the NGA in the TUC vote.

The NGA will be consulting "its friends and supporters in the movement" and seeking to mobilize unions in a campaign to continue the dispute and change the TUC's policy on backing for unions that find themselves in direct conflict with the employment legislation.

Yesterday's decision marks a new departure in the NGA's campaign. It suggests that the union will continue action with the labour movement to undermine the policy of Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, that the TUC should not flout the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts.

It also suggests that the union has been given private assurances of support by powerful unions such as the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees, whose representatives on the TUC General Council voted in favour of supporting the "unlawful" one-day strike called by the NGA earlier this week.

The NGA leaders also agreed yesterday to defer any decision about going back to the High Court to seek a judge's order to free the union's £10m from the control of the sequestrators who were put in to seize £675,000 in fines for contempt of court.

But the union will go into court on Monday to seek a variation of the order so as to release some of the union's funds for friendly society benefits.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) was given leave yesterday to appeal to the House of Lords over its dispute with David Dimbleby's family group of newspapers based at Richmond upon Thames.

But Lord Diplock, sitting with Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, said that the House of Lords would hear the appeal only if the union agreed to obey the law in the meantime and to withdraw its strike call tomorrow.

The Law Lords said that if the NUJ failed to do this, it was taking to abide by the injunctions within seven days its petition would be dismissed and it would be in contempt of court.

Conveyance outlet for banks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Banks and building societies will be able to offer conveyancing services in competition with solicitors' firms under government legislation to be fore-shadowed in the Commons today by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General.

But, under proposals approved by the Cabinet yesterday, they would still have to employ solicitors to do the work.

The Cabinet, therefore, while agreeing to liberalize the conveyancing market, has decided to introduce measures which are far more limited in scope than those in Mr Austin Mitchell's Buyers Bill, to be debated today. That Bill envisages the concept of the "licensed conveyancer".

Sir Patrick is expected to promise consultations to examine how more competition can be introduced, but there will be no "disappointment" among MPs that the Government's Bill, as at present envisaged, will not allow people other than solicitors to convey property.

The Government will oppose Mr Mitchell's Bill, which it regards as unsatisfactory, and it appeared last night that Conservative MPs would be sufficiently satisfied with the promise of action to be dissuaded from backing it.

Sir Patrick is expected to promise legislation during the present Parliament.

Three miners trapped by tons of rock

By Alan Hamilton

Rescuers made contact last night with three men trapped a quarter of a mile underground at Sherwood colliery, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after hundreds of tons of rock collapsed. All three men were safe and well.

Two rescue teams continued working to reach the men. A dozen workmates of the trapped miners were helping.

The men were in a tunnel 16ft high and 10ft wide constructing an access road for a new coal face at the colliery when the rock fell.

One rescue team was using picks, shovels and even bare hands and the other had cutting gear called a mechanical mole, which punches 6in wide holes.

A ventilation tube runs into the tunnel and National Coal Board experts said air was getting through.

The trapped men are Mr Ian Johnson, aged 38, married with a son, of Southby Close, Forest Town, Mansfield; Mr Peter Williams, aged 42, married with two children, of Sycamore Road, Mansfield Woodhouse; and Mr Peter Watts, aged 33, married with three children, of Abbotts Croft, Mansfield.

Gary Kasparov, the handsome young prodigy with the looks to fire a gymnast's crush and the memory of a computer, is within an ace of ensuring that next year's final of the world chess championships will be a clash of Soviet titans.

Kasparov, born 20 years ago with the name of Weinstein in the Soviet "deep south" republic of Azerbaijan, used only draw his next and eleventh game with the ailing Viktor Korchnoi at the Great Eastern Hotel in London to wipe the mercurial defector from the board.

Korchnoi, with a reputation for fighting back from the tightest of corners, has left his life-saving rally perilously late.

Victory for Kasparov will delight the Soviet chess establishment, which has wished upon Korchnoi the status of an unperson since he defected to Switzerland in 1976.

If youth triumphs over experience in today's vital game, Kasparov will next meet the victor of the other semi-final being played concurrently. His opponent seems certain to be the veteran Russian international grandmaster Vasily Smyslov, who last took the world title in 1957 and has

Clash of Soviet titans draws near



Kasparov in play. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

staged a remarkable comeback at the age of 62.

The betting on that outcome is firmly in favour of Kasparov as the man to meet the reigning Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, who has twice beaten off challenges from Korchnoi for his crown. There the odds become less certain.

In the latest published world chess ratings, Karpov leads Kasparov by 2,710 to 2,690, but a brilliant performance by the young star at a tournament in Yugoslavia in September, where all the world's top players with the notable exception of Karpov turned up to be beaten by him, may well have

put him in first place when the next ratings appear in January.

In the present match Korchnoi's win was the first game he has lost three and drawn six. Grandmasters observing the struggle have been unimpressed by the play of either man.

Raymond Keene: "Kasparov has been playing like Karpov, taking opportunities from Korchnoi's mistakes rather than building up positions. He is a naturally inventive and ingenious player, but he has shown little of his true skill here."

Harry Golombek, chess correspondent of *The Times*: "There has only been an occasional flash of Kasparov's brilliance; normally he breathes life and fire into positions."

"As for Korchnoi, he was more or less done for when he lost to Karpov in 1981. He no longer has the incentive of trying to get his family out of the Soviet Union, and that has seemed to drain him of much of his energy."

Grandmaster Joe Spielman: "Kasparov could not get himself together at all at first, but since Korchnoi's disaster in the sixth game Gary has turned from a tortured dog to an untroubled lion. He has learnt to

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All clear: A London policeman inspects a briefcase blown open by bomb experts outside the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, yesterday. There was traffic chaos after the object was spotted and the area cleared.

US warship blasts Lebanese militias

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

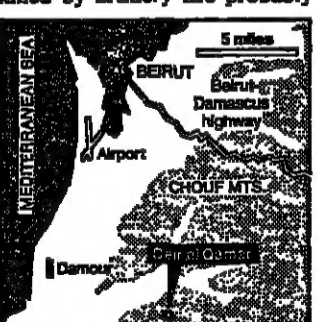
Less than an hour after the US marines in Beirut had come under fierce attack by mortars and heavy artillery yesterday evening, the battleship New Jersey began to bombard Shia Muslim and Druze militia positions in the hills around the base.

It was the second barrage by the vessel in 36 hours.

The New Jersey fired only its 5-in artillery, but the guns and shell explosions could be heard across Beirut as shock waves rumbled over the city.

There had been serious fighting round the Marine compound, at the airport during the day when Lebanese troops and Shia Muslim guerrillas had fought artillery battles not far from the British Army headquarters in the suburb of Hadeith. At least one shell landed scarcely 50 yards from the British base.

Earlier a French soldier was killed by artillery fire probably



directed from the Chouf mountains. Another French paratrooper was killed in the morning, when gunmen in a car shot him in the back at close range as he emptied a rubbish bin outside his regimental headquarters. This is clearly going to be a pattern of attack that will continue. Late in the afternoon a French patrol was attacked: three men were wounded.

Elsewhere in Lebanon yesterday, the Israelis, with tanks, armoured troop carriers and air cover, staged a mass evacuation of the Christians from Deir el-

Qamar. They took hundreds of civilians and their would-be militia protectors of the Phalangists to the safety of Israeli lines across the Awali river.

The Phalangists - who have been trapped in the town by the Druze since last September's mountain civil war - were later taken to Sidon. Last night, the Phalangist radio was claiming that the Christian militia were on board the French helicopter carrier Jeanne d'Arc, which was steaming northwards towards Beirut, escorted by Israeli gunboats.

Whether or not this report was true, the Phalangists, who more than any other Lebanese militia have demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, will now have to live with the fact that they needed a foreign army to rescue them from their Druze fellow-countrymen.

Druze gunmen jeered at the Christian militiamen, making obscene gestures and waving bayonets as their enemies, packed in buses with blinds down, were driven out of the town under Israeli protection.

The drama of the evacuation from the Chouf mountains, in which several hundred Israeli armoured vehicles were involved, tended to obscure the far graver events being discussed in Damascus between Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's Middle East envoy and Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister.

Less than a day after the New Jersey had shelled the Syrian Army for the first time, the two men concluded their three hours of discussions during the afternoon without finding any way of ending the military confrontation between Syria and America.

Indeed, General Mustafa Tlass, the Army commander, told his troops yesterday that Syria would continue to open fire on US reconnaissance jets and the Army would "surprise

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Why Nato might use bomb first

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, has given a warning that Nato would be forced to escalate "fairly quickly" to the first use of nuclear weapons in the event of a large-scale attack by Soviet conventional forces in Europe.

Although he did not specify how soon after such an attack he would have to ask Nato leaders to authorize the release of nuclear weapons, he emphasized that the alliance did not have adequate sustainability, manpower, ammunition and prepositioned reserves to contain a Soviet conventional attack "except for a very short time."

General Rogers, who has been Nato's commander since 1979, is in the United States to propagate what has now become a well-worn theme of his - the need for the 16-nation alliance to increase its defence spending, particularly on building up its conventional forces.

An improvement in Nato's conventional capacity would enhance the alliance's deterrence capability and raise the nuclear threshold, he told a group of foreign journalists. But it would inevitably involve some sacrifices - about \$11 (£7.55) a year for every man, woman and child living in Nato countries.

"The people have to be convinced that there is a threat to their freedom and have to be willing to make this additional sacrifice," he declared.

General Rogers went out of his way to assure Europeans that the new Pershing and cruise missiles now being deployed in West Germany, Britain and Italy could not cause a nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

He said the weapons would not even become nuclear until he received a special code from the US President and that code had been dialled into the warhead.

The only way he could obtain that code would be to go through the normal three-part release procedures laid down by Nato headquarters as well as in each of the 16 capitals with an early warning message saying that it might be necessary to use nuclear weapons.

This would be followed by a warning message containing information about possible targets and specifying the countries from which Nato's short and medium-range missiles would be launched.

Finally there would have to be a release message which would provide him with the codes for the warheads on the various types of weapons to be used in a nuclear strike.

"Until I get those codes I don't have a nuclear weapon," he explained. "I've got a warhead that is capable of becoming a nuclear warhead, but we must use the codes to enable it to be that."

The Port of Kings

GRAHAM'S
Late Bottled Vintage
1978
PORT
OPORTO

Jenkin questions value of local democracy in leaked note to Cabinet

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is questioning the value of local democracy as part of his sustained campaign to curb the powers of high-spending councils.

A confidential memorandum circulated to Cabinet colleagues says: "Local authorities are responsible to local people through the ballot box for the way they carry out their statutory responsibilities."

But it then adds that there are "major limitations" to the accountability of councillors to their ratepayers and their electorate.

The memorandum states that non-domestic ratepayers contribute nearly 60 per cent of the rates - at £6,000m, the largest single tax on business in England - while industry and commerce have no direct voting influence.

In the last financial year, only 48 per cent of local authorities' net revenue expenditure was met by ratepayers and "only 22 per cent of net rate fund revenue expenditure is financed by domestic rates, before rebates".

The memorandum concludes: "Only about 35 per cent of those eligible to vote in local elections pay full rates."

"Thirty per cent of domestic ratepayers are eligible for full or partial rebates."

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow spokesman who released details of the leaked document, said last night: "This does actually imply that for a small price you can get rid of local democracy."

In a note to be delivered to all Labour MPs today, Dr Cunningham sets the theme for the opposition to next week's Bill on rate-capping when he says: "Local democratic freedom and choice is being replaced by bureaucratic dictatorship."

Mr Jenkin's memorandum makes no pretence about the Government's attitude to local democracy. It says: "Ours is a unitary and not a federal state. All the local powers of local authorities, including the power to raise rates, are derived from Parliament. Local mandates cannot set aside national policies."

It also says that the Government has a right to demand a response from local authorities to its programme for national economic recovery.

"Where that response is not forthcoming, the Government has no alternative but to act through Parliament to safeguard the policies on which it was elected."

County councils chosen for abolition by ministers claimed yesterday that the latest Government grants had set them difficult targets which were meant to justify subsequent Conservative changes of overspending (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

It also became clear that a complicated loophole had allowed some smaller authorities, mostly Conservatives, to emerge with more scope for spending than had been expected.

Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of South Yorkshire county council, said that services could be kept at existing levels only by raising the county rate by about 40 per cent next year.

Mr Ray O'Brien, Merseyside's chief executive, said: "We had originally expected about £80m in government grants, but the Government's announcement means that we lose every single penny of that."

One of the least critical reactions to the Government's figures came from the Conservative-led Association of District Councils.

The highest increase goes to East Cambridgeshire district council, where the new target will be almost 49 per cent higher than this year's budget. Slough, Wansdyke in Avon, Colchester, South Oxfordshire, and Tandridge and Spelthorne, in Surrey, have won rises of well above 10 per cent.

Most of the mainly Conservative boroughs around London have lost significant amounts of rate support grant, including the Prime Minister's own borough of Barnet.

THE GAINERS

| Councils making significant gains in rate support grant | £m |
|---|----|
| Cleveland (Lab) | 1 |
| Northants (NOCP) | 1 |
| GLC (Lab) | 1 |
| West Midlands (Lab) | 1 |
| West Yorks | 1 |

THE LOSERS

| Councils suffering significant cuts in rate support grants | £m |
|--|-----|
| Avon (Lab) | -10 |
| Cheshire (Lab) | -5 |
| North Yorkshire (C) | -4 |
| London | -4 |
| Kensington and Chelsea (C) | -4 |
| Tower Hamlets (Lab) | -3 |
| Wandsworth (C) | -3 |
| Barnet (C) | -3 |
| Hillingdon (C) | -3 |
| Richmond (Lab) | -3 |
| Waltham Forest (C) | -3 |
| Metropolitan | -10 |
| Merchiston (Lab) | -5 |
| Gateshead (Lab) | -4 |
| Coventry (Lab) | -3 |

Councils feeling the pinch (all Labour)

| Amount a council needs to save to reach government target | £m |
|---|-----|
| Avon | 7 |
| Hampshire | 4.5 |
| Islington | 4 |
| Lambeth | 6 |
| Southwark | 6 |
| Surrey | 7 |
| Haringey | 7 |
| Newham | 29 |
| GLC | 50 |
| ILEA | 6.3 |
| Liverpool | 9 |
| Sheffield | 2.5 |
| Newcastle | 10 |
| Greater Manchester | 10 |
| Merseyside | 10 |
| West Midlands | 11 |

Rotarian Tendency girds loins for rate-cap battle

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government's hard-line rate-support grant settlement, taken with next week's expected publication of the Bill on rate-capping, is helping to fuel an unusually strong resistance movement within the Tory ranks.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is saying that the 6 per cent cash cuts for local authority high-spenders is a "very tough target indeed in real terms".

But the natural Conservative hostility to such harsh action against "well behaved" authorities, expressed in the Commons on Wednesday, is being reinforced by the growing opposition to Mr Jenkin's plans for rate-capping curbs on local councils.

A joint meeting of the Conservative backbench constitutional and environment committees on Wednesday night was reported yesterday to have shown distaste and disquiet at the proposals and the meeting was said to have been "somewhat moist".

But opposition to Mr Jenkin's proposals is also attracting some "dry" reinforcement particularly from the new backbench intake.

It is understood that new Conservative MPs have made their way to Parliament through local government and that their lobbying on its behalf has become a force to be reckoned with. One source said last night that they were being described as the Rotarian Tendency.

Brittan studies ban on solvent kits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has decided against legislation to make solvent abuse by individuals an offence. But ministers are considering whether to make the selling of kits intended for a crime in England and Wales.

The police and magistrates are among those consulted by the Government. They preferred the provision of expert help and prevention to the making of new offences.

Police are to be reminded of existing powers that can be used. The Government is relying on a drive involving health, education, and local government bodies, with shopkeepers, against abuse.

In the Glasgow trial which resulted on Monday in the conviction of two men for selling glue-sniffing kits, the charge was based on Scottish common law, which is more far reaching than English law in that respect.

But Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in a parliamentary written answer said he was examining the outcome of the case in the light of government proposals for further action against solvent misuse.

The difficulties faced by the Government, apparent at a press conference given yesterday by Mr Patten and Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Home Office, are:

There are several thousand products freely on sale which, if sniffed and inhaled, can cause injury and even death.

Specific laws against those indulging in solvent abuse would be difficult to frame and enforce.

The Government has no official knowledge of any kits on sale in England and Wales.

● Khalid Raja and Ahmed Raja, the Glasgow shopkeepers, have lodged appeals against their three-year sentences for selling glue sniffing kits to children, imposed by the High Court in Glasgow (our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

Leading article, page 15

Injunction silences royal butler

By Alan Hamilton

Solicitors acting on behalf of Princess Anne have obtained an interim injunction in the High Court restraining the Princess's former butler, Mr Andrew Lightwood, from disclosing details about his royal employment.

Mr Lightwood, aged 23, who had previously worked for four years at Buckingham Palace before a two-month stint at Princess Anne's home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, fled from his job in October claiming that he had received 14 telephone calls from a man with a strong Irish accent threatening him with death. Gloucestershire police are still investigating.

Mr Lightwood is understood to have been approached by several foreign magazines, but it is believed that no British publication was prepared to negotiate with him. Technically, Mr Lightwood would be in contempt of court if he published confidential revelations anywhere.

They suspect and perhaps with reason, that he subscribes to the principle which most of them have at some time voiced, that nationalized industries should be set financial targets and then allowed the fullest commercial freedom with the least interference.

No further squeeze was put on the electricity industry. The figure of £740m in loan repayments during 1984-85 was confirmed, as was the requirement of a 1.4 per cent annual return on average total net assets.

Treasury ministers said they were satisfied that there would be price increases well below the expected rate of inflation next year, and that the principle of what they call economic pricing, with prices rising in line with costs, had been upheld.

Mr Walker's former colleagues have for weeks proved unwilling to accept that he cannot bend the Electricity Council to his will, given that he appoints and can dismiss its members.

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The day sex tangle MP's troubles began

By Ronald Faux

The troubles of Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South, whose political career reached a crisis last night, began when he was asked to help an unmarried mother experiencing difficulties with her son, then aged 13.

Mr Bermingham and the woman ended up as lovers - and their affair, with its trail of alleged broken promises, culminated last night in a motion of no confidence being put before an emergency meeting of the constituency management committee of the St Helens South Labour Party.

At a national level, no pressure has been put on Mr Bermingham to resign - party leaders saying that he should stay in the seat and carry on drawing his MP's salary while he sorts out his private life.

Uppermost in the minds of party officials in London was the threat of a by-election and a Social Democratic Party onslaught on the St Helens seat spearheaded by Mrs Shirley Williams, who had held the neighbouring Merseyside seat at Crosby.

Mr Bermingham, who has been married twice, has re-



Mr Gerald Bermingham: Political career in crisis

assisted who met Mr Bermingham in the People's March for Jobs in May, was also having a relationship with the MP. Miss Ball is expecting a baby next month.

Miss Harrison said yesterday that she complained to the Law Society about Mr Bermingham's treatment of her because she felt he had taken advantage of her after she consulted him professionally in July, 1980.

"I was a single parent bringing up one son who was at that time nearly 13 years old," she said.

Various difficulties with her son had come to a head and she was extremely upset and distraught. She sought legal advice and approached Mr Bermingham, who as well as being a solicitor was then Labour councillor on the Sheffield Education Committee.

He appeared to be very supportive and understanding, Miss Harrison said. He found a place at boarding school for her son and care proceedings were started. The sexual relationship began two months after the first meeting and the affair went on for three years.

She said that the Law Society had replied that a sexual relationship did not count under the heading of unprofessional conduct.

Ready for 1984



Finishing touches being applied before George Orwell's wax figure with Big Brother special effects is unveiled at the Madame Tussauds exhibition in London next Wednesday. Tim Sale, the hair and colouring artist, has added the hair strand by strand (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Chancellor rebuffed on power price

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A renewed effort by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to secure a rise of 3 per cent in the price of electricity from April 1 appeared to have failed yesterday when the Cabinet again decided that it should not take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council.

But it was agreed that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, should again invite the Council's chairman, Mr Philip Jones, to do what he could to meet the Chancellor's wishes.

As after the last Cabinet discussion on the subject on November 10, when Mr Walker was absent in China, conflicting accounts were heard of what had been decided and victory was confidently claimed on behalf of both ministers.

The signs were that Mr Walker would not press Mr Jones too hard, but that the Council might agree to an increase of up to 2 per cent in domestic prices during the next 12 months, with no increase for industry.

But it was also clear that the Electricity Council will resist any increase in the price to industry, where it hopes to increase sales. A spokesman said every effort would be made to keep down prices as long as possible.

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Telecom Bill goes to Lords

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The second Telecommunications Bill had its final reading in the House of Commons yesterday after more than 300 hours of debate and will automatically pass to the House of Lords before becoming law in July.

The Bill is one of the most controversial of recent years as it will denationalize British Telecom, with 51 per cent being sold to the private sector.

It was first introduced in the last parliament but was part of the legislation sacrificed to a June election. When it was introduced the Government had amended it slightly to guarantee British Telecom's supply of telephones, emergency services, and public call boxes.

All three areas had been extremely sensitive politically. MPs on both sides feared that a new British Telecom whose responsibility to shareholders was to maximize profits would not be interested in uneconomic services.

The Bill empowered the Government to sell shares in the new public limited company and ensure that an Office of Telecommunications would police British Telecom.

The final major amendment took place two days ago. Debenture shares in the new corporation would be held by a "Shell" British Telecom as a means of funding its pre-1969 pension fund liability of £1.25bn which is to be paid before 1992 with any outstanding money being paid at 14.5 per cent interest.

The Post Office ceased to be part of the Civil Service in 1969 and the deficiency in the pension fund when it became a nationalized industry was to be made up by the telecommunications arm of the Post Office. This became British Telecom in 1980.

The amendment ensures that the new British Telecom will not carry the debt in case it discouraged investors.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Social workers may end homes action

By Nicholas Tipkins, Social Services Correspondent

An end to the action, which has affected local authority homes for children in care and the elderly for the past three months was in sight last night as residential social workers belonging to the National and Local Government Association (NALGO) voted by a clear majority against increasing it.

A recommendation to call off the action and accept a joint inquiry on pay and hours under an independent chairman is now to be put to a delegate meeting of the 25,000 residential social workers next Thursday.

Both NALGO's local government committee and strike committee are recommending an end to the action and acceptance of the peace formula devised by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Since September 12 the residential social workers have been banning overtime and admissions to local authority homes for the elderly, children and disabled.

Research institutes to close

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Two research laboratories are to be closed and up to 500 staff made redundant under a new corporate plan made public yesterday by the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

The two institutes, whose closure had been widely predicted, are the Letcombe laboratory, near Wantage, Oxfordshire, and the Weed Research Organization (WRO), at Yarrington, near Oxford. Both are owned and funded by the council, and were thus seen as more obvious targets than the research units which are only partially dependent upon government finance.

Dr Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, said yesterday that he realized that the programme would create considerable personal distress for some people.

Dr Riley made it clear that the job losses would not be confined to Letcombe and the WRO and that the "misery" would be spread as evenly as possible.

Paper called to court

The headline said "Baby was 'blinded by dad'". There was also a picture of the accused father.

Miss Eily Goodall, representing *The Sun*, told the judge the paper took the complaint seriously and did not think it was contempt.

If it was regarded as a contempt, the newspaper was extremely sorry.

Draw brings Kasparov near victory

By Harry Golombek

The vital tenth game in the Korochnoi-Kasparov match of the Acropolis Computer world championships, semi-final ended in a draw at the Grand Eastern Hotel, London, on Wednesday.

Korochnoi, with the white pieces, obtained an impressive position out of the opening and managed for all to break open the position in an attempt to profit. Kasparov met this coolly, and Korochnoi got into time trouble, from which he cleverly extricated himself.

Tenth game
QGD Tartakower variation
White Korochnoi, Black Kasparov

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 2 Q-Q2 | P-K3 |
| 3 P-QB4 | P-K3 | 3 P-QB4 | O-N1 |
| 4 N-K3 | P-K3 | 4 N-K3 | O-N1 |
| 5 B-N3 | P-K3 | 5 B-N3 | O-N1 |
| 6 B-R4 | O-O | 6 P-QR2 | P-QR4 |
| 7 P-K3 | P-QB4 | 7 P-K3 | P-P |
| 8 N-B3 | P-K3 | 8 N-B3 | P-P |
| 9 B-N3 | P-K3 | 9 B-N3 | P-P |
| 10 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 10 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 11 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 11 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 12 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 12 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 13 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 13 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 14 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 14 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 15 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 15 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 16 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 16 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 17 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 17 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 18 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 18 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 19 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 19 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 20 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 20 P-Q4 | P-P |
| 21 P-Q4 | P-K3 | 21 P-Q4 | P-P |

Collectors join Sotheby's board

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's announced yesterday the addition of some of the world's biggest art collectors, and therefore potential sellers, to its group board as the board met for the first time since the takeover by Mr Alfred Taubman.

Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, who inherited a superb collection housed in Lugano, Switzerland, and has added to it modern masterpieces, heads the list. Then comes Mrs Gordon Getty, of San Francisco, wife of J. Paul Getty's son.

The Far East is represented by Mr Seiji Tsutsumi, chairman of the Seibu group of retail enterprises. Unlike in the West, art exhibitions and sales are run as prestige events by department stores in Japan, with Seibu among the groups most interested in art.

The other new names include Mr Emilio Gioia, of New York, who has property interests, Mr Alexis Gregory, of New York, a publisher, Mrs Milton Petrie, of New York, Mr Earl E. T. Smith, of Palm Beach, a former ambassador, and Mr L. H. Wexner, of Columbus, Ohio, a retailer.

Mr Taubman said that he had found advisers who would represent not only different parts of the world but also different parts of the United States. They were people who dealt in the art markets of the world, could sense what was happening, and had contacts with customers.

They arrived on Wednesday for committee meetings and to be shown around Sotheby's offices and departments. They were greeted by outstandingly buoyant figures for Sotheby's autumn turnover and annual profits.

With another three or four days of sales to go, Sotheby's had calculated that its autumn turnover was up by more than 70 per cent on last years. That is a figure that needs to be placed in context.

Last autumn was the period when Sotheby's turnover was most affected by the group's financial uncertainties and turnover was much lower than in 1981. Compared to that of 1981, this year's autumn has been more modest although showing a healthy increase of 23 per cent. The "freak" low figure of last year distorts the picture.

On the other hand, the company's profit figures for the financial year ended in August was £5.1m, an improvement on the £4m Sotheby's was predicting at the time Mr Taubman made his bid for the company in the summer.

Clock sells for £42,307

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's have been selling important clocks on both sides of the Atlantic during the past 24 hours. In London yesterday a good example of the great era of British clock making, a silver-mounted ebony spring clock made around 1675 by Joseph Knibb, sold for £24,200 (estimate £20,000-£25,000) to R. A. Lee, the London dealer.

In New York this price was put in the shade. The Polar Star Clock, a Fabergé clock in gold, nephrite and enamel in the form of an eight-pointed compass, sold for \$60,500 (estimate \$30,000-\$40,000) or £42,307.

The clock dates from around 1890 and was designed for use aboard the Russian Imperial Yacht, the Polar Star.

Sotheby's sale of clocks and watches totalled £188,540, with 21 per cent unsold. They also held a London jewel sale which made £397,403 with 14 per cent unsold and a watercolour sale totalling £67,276 with 17 per cent unsold.

PC accused

Constable Thomas Andrews of the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday appeared in a Belfast court accused of murdering a Roman Catholic youth during a 1981 riot.

He was remanded in custody until Monday.

Boy faces Thatcher bomb charges

A north London schoolboy aged 14 who told Scotland Yard anti-terrorist branch detectives that he learnt of bomb making in his class, was accused at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of sending an explosive packet to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution said that a postal sorter at Islington, who became suspicious of the package because of the childish writing on it, alerted the police, and explosives experts defused the packet.

The boy, from Tottenham, pleaded not guilty to three charges of making an explosive device and sending it through the post to Mrs Thatcher.

The boy had told the police that he had done it to draw attention to himself and for a joke.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Falklands team set up

The Rowntree and Cadbury trusts are to fund a new forum of politicians, academics, businessmen and churchmen which was set up yesterday to promote a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

A total of £15,000 is to be given to the new South Atlantic Council, £5,000 each from the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, the Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Cadbury Trust.

The council has been established mainly by Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrock, Cumnock and Doon Valley.

Straw burning controls drafted

Strict new controls on straw burning are contained in draft proposals by the Home Office to be sent to local authorities next month.

They include a limit on the area that can be burnt at any one time of six hectares (about 15 acres); firebreaks at least 25 metres wide; the presence of two trained supervisors at every burning; and a requirement to fill all ash into the soil within 36 hours.

Four on charity fraud charges

Four men appeared in court yesterday accused of conspiracy to obtain money by deception from the charity Children with Cancer.

The company directors, Mr Alan Cameron, aged 46, a former trustee of the charity, Mr Robert Brown, aged 46, Mr Robert Brown, aged 51, of Exeter Road, Exeter, Devon, and Mr Robert Brown, aged 51, of Exeter Road, Exeter, Devon, were charged with conspiracy to obtain money by deception from the charity Children with Cancer, central London, until February 5.

Body identified

Murder squad detectives will reveal today the name of the young woman found strangled on the Duke of Marlborough's estate at Stonyhurst, Oxfordshire who is believed to be a Finnish tourist aged 23.

Explosion charges

Two youths aged 16 and another aged 17 are to appear before Oxford magistrates today charged with intent to endanger life after the explosion which damaged a telephone kiosk in the city on Tuesday.

Kidnap of in terr

The kidnap of a young woman from a public house in London last night was the subject of a police appeal for information.

The woman, who was 21, was taken from the pub at about 11.30pm last night. She was wearing a blue jacket and a blue skirt.

The police are looking for anyone who saw her being taken or who has information about her whereabouts.

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

A woman shoplifter was fought to escape by a West Yorkshire Police Constable yesterday.

The woman, who was 35, was caught in the act of stealing a television set from a shop in Leeds. She was wearing a blue jacket and a blue skirt.

The police are looking for anyone who saw her being taken or who has information about her whereabouts.

Bobby Moore on this charge

Bobby Moore, the former England footballer, is charged with conspiracy to defraud the Football Association.

The charge relates to a alleged conspiracy to defraud the FA of money.

Ararat to stand for rector post

Ararat, the Armenian community centre in London, is standing for the post of rector of the Armenian Apostolic Church in England.

The post is currently held by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

James Quigley, aged 24, of the 100th Street, Belfast, is remanded in custody on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the British Commonwealth Development Finance Corporation.

The charge relates to a alleged conspiracy to defraud the BCF of money.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Shots were fired during a robbery on a bus in London yesterday.

The bus was carrying a large number of passengers when the robbery took place.

Scots arrest

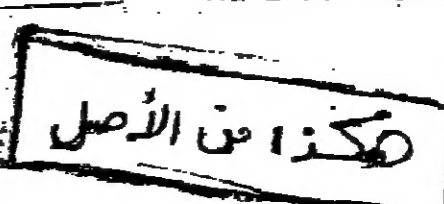
A man was arrested in Scotland on suspicion of involvement in a recent robbery.

The man was 35 years old and was from Glasgow.

Christmas lights

Christmas lights are being put up in various parts of the country.

The lights are being put up by local authorities and private companies.



Kidnap brothers convicted of holding couple in terror for £2m ransom

Two brothers were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of kidnapping a young couple and holding them captive for a £2m ransom.

George Panae, aged 30, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Sreatham, and his brother Anastasi, aged 36, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, both south London, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of kidnapping Mr Emmanuel Xuerab, aged 33, a wine merchant, and his wife Maria, 25, from their home at Trowsey, Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, in January, and holding them prisoner for five days at a house in Kemble Road, Croydon.

The brothers were found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdicts after a month-long trial. Both had denied all charges.

A third member of the gang, Donald Gray, aged 27, unemployed, a former boxer, of Raleigh Gardens, Brixton, south London, who pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown, also awaits sentence.

Mr and Mrs Xuerab were kidnapped as they arrived home after a shopping trip and were taken to the Croydon house



George Panae, who demanded £2m ransom

able to locate the address for police, who later stormed the house at dawn. The police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had recorded the calls to Mr Anthony Xuerab.

Mrs Xuerab, had determined to do all she could to trap the gang by identifying the kidnappers.

With her bound hands she clawed at the carpet to force the fibres under her nails. Mrs Xuerab hoped that if they were eventually killed the fibres would assist forensic experts and police to trace the kidnappers. She also bit off some of her nails and left them under her mattress as further clues.

As she sat helpless, and blindfolded, her husband held captive in another room, she listened to nearby church bells and guessed the direction of the train running close to the house and managed under her blindfold to catch a glimpse of the grey curtains.

When she was released to exert more pressure for the kidnappers' demands she assessed the distance the car travelled and memorised every left and right turn. Her recollection of the details enabled Anti-Terrorist Squad men to locate the house within 12 hours.



Kidnap victims: Mr and Mrs Xuerab, who were held under threat of death (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

Woman Police Constable Susan Hillier put up a struggle after being caught shoplifting and tried three times to escape from a store detective, magistrates in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, were told yesterday.

Mr James Coussey, for the prosecution, said Hillier had been on a shopping spree.

He said that despite being caught red-handed in Tesco's store, Cheltenham, where she was seen putting steaks and beef into a bag, Hillier protested her innocence to fellow officers.

Hillier, aged 31, of St George's Road, Cheltenham, admitted three charges of stealing food and clothes, worth a total of £35. She had been in the police force for 11 years, including two years as a detective. She resigned from the force on Tuesday.

Hillier was remanded until January 12 for reports.

Valve error caused Sellafield leak

By Ronald Faux

Mr Con Allday, chairman and chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels, admitted yesterday that a misunderstanding between shift managers led to the discharge of a radioactive slick into the Irish Sea five weeks ago.

The incident caused contamination to the beach near the Sellafield formerly Windscale reprocessing plant on the Cumbria coast.

At a press conference at Sellafield Mr Allday said that a valve was turned because a manager had not read a record made in the log book three days earlier. He did not know that high-level radioactivity had not been removed from water in a tank.

The error was a genuine misunderstanding, Mr Allday said although it should not have happened he was satisfied that the people involved had acted

BBC shelves plan for pay-TV

By David Hewson and Bill Johnstone

The BBC put its satellite broadcasting plans on ice yesterday after deciding that its proposals for a launch in 1986 of a pay television service were unviable.

The decision, at a meeting of the corporation's board, was a blow to the corporation's involvement in later satellite projects, but appears to shelving immediate plans for a two-channel service showing films and entertainment programmes.

A Broadcasting House statement said: "The board recognized the great difficulties which remain to be overcome by the BBC, industry and others in establishing a viable DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service, but concluded that the BBC should continue to explore all possibilities which will lead to the setting up of a British DBS system."

United Satellites, the prospective manufacturer of the BBC

Threat of holiday pub strikes

By Richard Evans

An unprecedented strike which will shut 280 public houses in northern England today could spread throughout Britain during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers gave unanimous backing yesterday to industrial action planned by managers employed by Pennine Host, the northern arm of a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary, over pay and conditions.

The strike will shut Host's northern public houses today, on the two days before Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and on January 1.

The Host group runs about 1500 public houses.

Mr David Carter, the association's national secretary, said last night many of the elements in Host's pay package would reduce managers' pay

Universities will try to curb rowdy students

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

University vice-chancellors sought to reassure Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at a private meeting this week that they would do all they could to control rowdy students on campuses but at the same time asked that ministers inform them when they were visiting their institutions.

This exchange on the subject of free speech in universities arose at the routine autumn term meeting between the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Minister at Sir Keith's insistence.

He is understood to be distressed by what he calls "barbarism" on the campuses, such as the recent paint-throwing at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, at Manchester University and the violent picketing of himself at Warwick.

Manchester University was not informed officially of Mr Heseltine's visit, which took place the day after the announcement that cruise missiles had arrived on British soil, and was supposed to be an informal address to the Conservative Society.

Mr Heseltine was barracked by a large group of students who prevented him from speaking for an hour by blocking a staircase and then heckled him.

The Warwick University incident was more organized. Knowing beforehand that Sir Keith was coming, the students' union executive proposed a picket to protest at government cuts of the education service.

One in four motorists drinks and drives

By Michael Bally
Transport Editor

At least one in four motorist drinks and drives; and between the ages of 18 and 34 the proportion is as high as one in three.

That finding from extensive soundings by Harris Research in London and Nottingham, coincides with yesterday's report in *The Times* that one in four drivers tested for alcohol in a pre-Christmas exercise by Sussex police failed the test.

It will be discussed at 10.30pm today in a London Weekend Television programme, "Driving Drunk in London", which commissioned the research.

Questioned by pollsters, 37 per cent of London motorists (48 per cent of those aged between 25 and 34) admitted that they drank and drove occasionally or often. Half of those questioned thought it unlikely that they would be caught.

Road safety experts say that motorists' perception of their chance of being caught is crucial in determining whether they drink and drive. And the research suggests that this is far lower in London than in Nottingham.

Drivers in Nottingham are five times more likely to be breath-tested than in London, according to Home Office figures. Last year the Metropolitan Police carried out 3.3 tests for every 1,000 Londoners. The national average is 4.2, and the police in Nottinghamshire carried out 15.8 to top the national league.

Video editors' 'high' pay

By David Hewson

The highest paid company director at LWT in 1982 received £54,299. In the same year 233 workers received between £20,000 and £25,000; 113, £25,000 to £30,000; 19, £30,000 to £35,000; eight, £35,000 to £40,000; 17, £40,000 to £45,000 and three received £55,000 to £60,000.

LWT denied that the videotape recorder team shift leader who earned more than £100,000 last year received such high wages because of a local agreement. It said that the payments resulted from a national ITV agreement, though it is understood that no other ITV company has video editors who regularly earn more than £50,000 a year.

Bobby Moore on drink charge

Bobby Moore, the former England football captain, was yesterday charged with a driving offence after a breath test conducted by Bedfordshire police. After a further test at Biggleswade police station, he was charged and bailed to appear in court at a date to be fixed.

Moore, who retired as a player six years ago, and who led England to the World Cup victory in 1966, was appointed chief executive of Southend United in the summer.



Retreat in time for two Royal Green Jackets.

In the steps of Sir John

Eight men from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will spend their Christmas leave in nineteenth-century uniforms, retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in 1808.

The men, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, will leave Sahagun, south-east of Leon, on Christmas Eve and march to

Arab cash for Chelsea footballers

By John Lawless

Chelsea Football Club yesterday became the first British club to be sponsored by an Arab backer when Gulf Air announced that it is to inject "a considerable sum" into the second division promotion challenge.

Gulf Air is thought to be paying £150,000 to have its name on the Chelsea shirts for just the remaining half of this season.

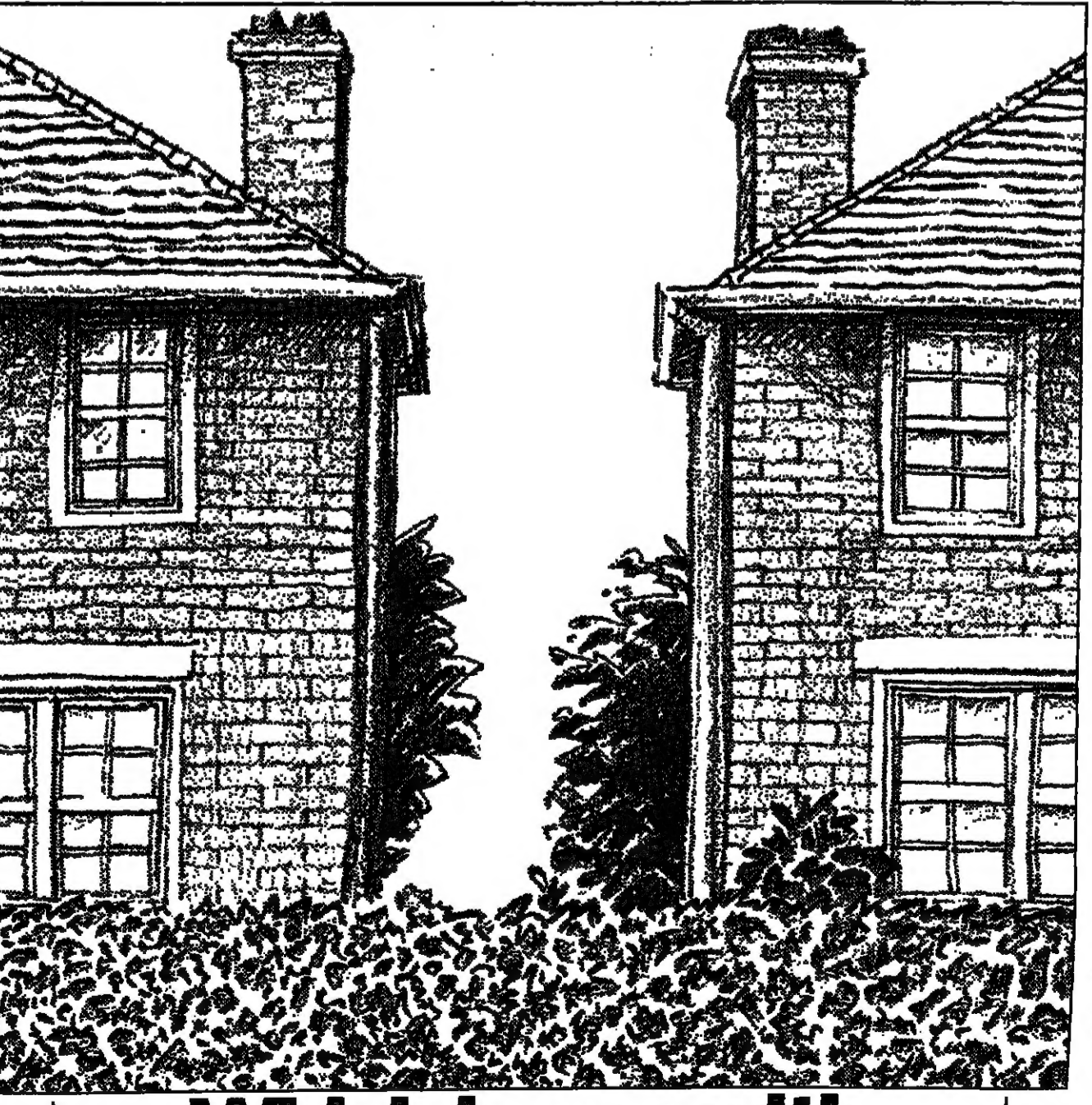
Mr Ken Bates, the club chairman, said that it would represent the most lucrative deal in football sponsorship if it is carried through to next season, which may depend on whether Chelsea does indeed climb back to the first division.

British football supporters have only just got used to their game being propped up by cash from Japanese corporations, with Canon sponsoring the League and JVC backing Arsenal.

But the Chelsea coup, celebrated at the Stamford Bridge ground, with coffee and dates in honour of their teetotal guests, is unique.

The contract calls for Chelsea to send its coaching specialists into the four states, which own the airline: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "And the most promising players will come back to Chelsea to train and, hopefully, to play in the British league", Mr Bates said.

The prospects are favourable for Chelsea getting a renewal of the deal next year. The club is second in the second division, and Gulf Air was one of the world's few airline profit-makers last year, making \$39m.



Arafat to stand for rector post

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has agreed to stand as a candidate for rector of Glasgow University next March. Mr Abdul Ibrahim, president of the university's Palestine Action Society, who has campaigned for Mr Arafat's candidacy says that the election campaign will promote the cause of the Palestinian people as part of the negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, of Chelmsford Road, Belfast, was yesterday remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, accused of conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property.

The hearing lasted two minutes.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Masked men fired shots when they held up a security vehicle at Hoo Junction, Lower Shorne, near Gravesend, Kent yesterday, and stole £150,000 worth of British Rail wages.

British Rail staff gave chase in a car but eventually lost the robbers' van, which was later found abandoned at Strood, near Rochester.

Scots arrest

Mr Ian Howell, aged 28, who was being sought for questioning about the death of Jennifer Wright, whose body was found in a hostel in Oxford last week, was arrested near Inverness late on Wednesday.

Christmas lights

Mrs Mary Scotney, aged 76, switched a thousand Christmas lights on yesterday at her home and garden in Nene Parade, at March, Cambridgeshire, where the centrepiece is a 30ft high tree.

Schoolboy takes driving test man to court

Mr Andrew Rowland, aged 18, failed his driving test last week because of undue hesitancy. Torquay Magistrates' Court in Devon was told yesterday. But it was the examiner, Mr Barry James, who was the hesitant one, magistrates were told.

Mr James did not signal for Mr Rowland to do his emergency stop until nine minutes after he had first warned him it would be coming.

Mr Rowland, who is studying for his A levels at Torquay Grammar School, took Mr James to court in a rare case to have the test deemed to have been conducted improperly. But the magistrates found in Mr James' favour and ordered Mr Rowland to pay £30 costs.

Private health insurance subscriptions to rise

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Sharp increases in private health insurance are on the way from January for some subscribers to Private Patients Plan (PPP), the second largest of the health insurance groups.

Subscriptions will rise to a level about 15 per cent higher than a year ago for many individual subscribers, with increases ranging from 7.5 per cent to 35 per cent on last January.

The rise for members in small company-paid schemes will be between 26 per cent and 34 per cent on last January's rates. But the increases in some of PPP's large voluntary paid groups will be far smaller.

The increases come as Bupa has announced that its subscrip-

Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

Although you can't see from the outside, it's the one with cavity wall and loft insulation. For full details on these and many other ways of insulating your home and saving money, simply send for our free booklet.

To: Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.'

Name _____

Address _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE



Trafalgar House have just announced another record year. Turnover up 33% to £1.4b. Profits up 20% to £79m. Dividends up 18% to £21m.

But this year, financial analysts have not been alone in anticipating such impressive results.

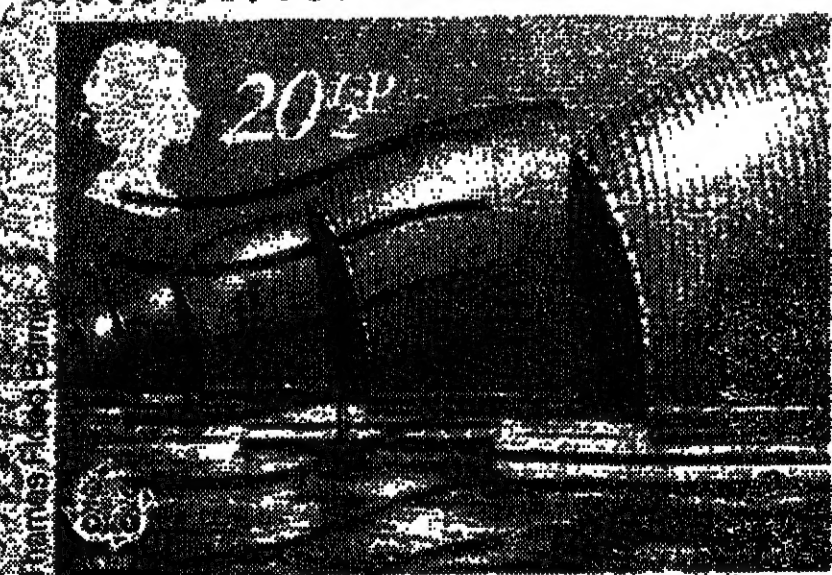
Philatelists also had more than an inkling of what was going to come.

Because in May the Post Office issued three special stamps under the title "British Engineering Achievements."

Two out of the three featured works in which Trafalgar House companies have been deeply involved.

Our Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company and Redpath Dorman Long were members of the consortium responsible for the Humber Bridge, the longest single span bridge in the world.

How many other companies can put their results on the outside of the envelope?



And Cleveland also constructed and installed the gates and gate arms for the Thames Flood Barrier.

There were of course, several other significant Trafalgar House events this year which the Post Office has not yet celebrated in philatelic form.

For instance, the purchase of two new cruise ships, the Sagafjord and Vistafjord, which make Cunard's cruise fleet now the most luxurious in the world.

The acquisition of a significant stake in the Forties oil field from BP. The completion of the new Stoke Mandeville Hospital by Trollope & Colls. The Ankobra Bridge in Ghana. The Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

Put together, our year might be the basis for a whole album of stamps. In fact, for twenty years, with almost monotonous regularity, good news has been coming through the letter boxes of Trafalgar House shareholders.

In 1964, our first Annual Report as a public company showed turnover of £446,000 and profits of £86,000.

Last year, Trafalgar House earned £500m in overseas sales alone.

You can find out exactly how we've built our business by getting us to send you a copy of our company report.

We will be posting them bearing some very particular stamps. After all, philately is the sincerest form of flattery.

For a copy of our 1983 Report and Accounts, contact The Secretary at 1 Berkeley Street, London W1X6NN

Trafalgar House
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Guardian is told to surrender cruise missiles document

The *Guardian* was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over a secret memorandum that could lead to the unmasking of a "mole" in the Government service. The surrender, however, is to be delayed until tonight to allow the newspaper time to appeal.

Judgment in the appeal is expected today. The *Guardian* assured the High Court, however, that it would obey the court's final order.

Mr Justice Scott rejected arguments by the newspaper's lawyer, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, that it was entitled to protect anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum, about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common, was published by the newspaper on October 31.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, asked for the document back unmodified so that they could identify the source from markings on it.

The judge said that the newspaper did not contest that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General were the rightful owners of the document. It was also accepted that no damage will be, or has been, suffered by its publication.

The newspaper claimed that under the Contempt Act it would have to reveal its source

only if it was in the interests of justice, national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime. It claimed that none of those conditions applied.

But the judge said that the Act could not be used to limit the right of an owner to recover property.

Mr Simon Brown, for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, had argued that there was a matter of national security at stake because the leak showed that someone in a high place in the Government service was untrustworthy. He said that "national security required that he be identified and got rid of" the judge said.

It had also been argued that other Governments might be reluctant to share information with Britain until the source was identified, but the judge said he did not think it was self-evident that other Governments might react as described.

The judge said it was a case where "injustice" might be done if he refused to grant the order. Further, if he was wrong on his interpretation of the Contempt Act there would be an arguable case to be tried on the question of security.

In ordering that the document should be handed over he also ordered the newspaper to pay the costs of the hearing.

Law Report, page 9



Marek Zwiefka-Sibley and Emma Lesiecka in London yesterday holding some of the 15,000 cards being sent to Polish refugee children in Austria (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Herring quotas agreement rescues Europe's common fisheries policy

From Ian Murray, Brussels

"Blue Europe" is now complete. Fisheries ministers in Brussels have eventually sorted out a six-month wrangle over North Sea herring quotas, which means that the common fisheries policy, signed last January, can at last be made fully operational.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, emerged extremely happy from the meeting when it ended in the middle of Wednesday night. The agreement, he said, was "a triumph for British fishermen". They had been allocated more herring than he had ever hoped for.

The agreement means that next year Britain is to be allowed to catch 24.15 per cent of the 155,000 tonnes of herring which scientific advice suggests would be the proper level to preserve stocks.

Mr Jopling pointed out that over the 16 years up to 1976, when herring fishing had to be banned to save it from extinction in the North Sea, Britain had averaged only 16.7 per cent of total catches.

The final agreement became possible because the conservation measures imposed in 1976 had been so successful. When the ban was lifted earlier this year the allowable quota was set at just 84,300 tonnes.

Next year the figure is nearly twice as high, and it is hoped that, by careful controls to prevent overfishing, it will be possible to increase the total to more than a quarter of a million tonnes before long.

It was the prospect of more

fish in the future which eventually persuaded Holland and Denmark to accept the herring quotas. According to the agreement, Denmark is given a progressively larger and larger share of the available fish.

At the 250,000 tonne mark - which is considered to be the upper limit at which the fish can be sold for consumption - the Danish share would rise from its present 21.15 per cent level to 35 per cent. The extra Danish fish would be kept in Denmark's fishmeal industry supplied.

Agreement on herring quotas is to last for 20 years, like the rest of the common fisheries policy. But falling stocks of cod and haddock, which make up 50 per cent of Britain's catch, mean that the industry could face a tough time next year.

The Commission wants to reduce the quotas for North Sea haddock by 18 per cent and the quotas for cod by 7 per cent next year. This would cost British fishermen something like £15m over the year.

HERRING CATCH PERCENTAGES

| | 155,000 tonne quota | Up to 250,000 | Over 250,000 |
|------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| W. Germany | 13.3 | 15 | 17.5 |
| France | 13.0 | 12 | 8.5 |
| Holland | 27.6 | 27 | 21.5 |
| Belgium | 7.1 | (8.00) | 1 |
| Britain | 24.15 | 23 | 17.5 |
| Denmark | 21.15 | 22 | 35 |

Belgium is assured a minimum tonnage until stocks rise to above the 250,000 mark, when it would receive 1 per cent.

Christians get Peking protection

From Christopher Wren (New York Times)

Dr Robert Runcie, said here that Chinese Christians are enjoying greater safeguards in trying to build a church, but he stopped short of suggesting they have achieved religious freedom.

The Primate, who is about to end a two-week visit to China, told a press conference on Wednesday that his hosts had shown him recent legislation that protected Christians from the persecution they suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

"From this I take it that the official political line is one of broadening through the constitution and the criminal code the possibilities of free religious practice," Runcie said.

It was too early, he said in reply to a question, to tell whether full religious freedom existed. "Certainly I have seen evidence that there are more churches opened, more Bibles available, and I can only assume that is the result of less political pressure against such things."

Children want Marcos to quit

Manila - About 2,000 children yesterday marched through the business district here, demanding the resignation of President Marcos (Keith Dalton writes).

Miss Kristina Aquino aged 12, the daughter of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, led the children. "The only Christmas present I want is for President Marcos to resign," she said.

Mitterrand visit to back Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

President Mitterrand began a three-day visit to Yugoslavia yesterday. The aim of the trip, apart from reinforcing trade, economic and political ties, is to demonstrate France's support for Yugoslavia in its non-aligned role between east and west.

M. Mitterrand is accompanied by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and three ministers in charge of foreign trade, finance and transport.

Yugoslavia is going through serious economic difficulties and is counting on financial

support. Last year France joined other Western countries and the International Monetary Fund in providing a package of financial assistance which eased the burden of debt repayments.

Yugoslavia has succeeded in increasing its exports to countries with convertible currencies and in reducing drastically its balance of payments deficit.

Next year it is counting on further financial backing. The Yugoslav Government will also raise with President Mitterrand its wish to increase its exports to the European Community.



Pensive President M. Mitterrand, in a study by Konrad Muller, a West German photographer, in the garden of his house at Latche, south-west France.

Aid groups worried by police Bill

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Voluntary bodies added yesterday to growing concern that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill would allow confidential records and documents to be seized, despite Government undertakings.

The Law Society has already criticized loopholes leaving private legal, medical and journalistic material open to search and seizure.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has now urged Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to revise the Bill at committee stage.

The council has written on behalf of a wide range of voluntary bodies worried that loopholes and ambiguities will give police access to the files. Faced with that threat, the organizations say they will have to make a "harsh" choice. They could cease recording clients' personal details or withdraw guarantees that such information would be held in confidence.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, its director, says in the letter: "NCVO and a number of other voluntary organizations would prefer to see a simpler procedure, giving clearer protection to the records of voluntary organizations, whether held by paid staff or volunteers."

Alternatively, the council would like amendments to the Bill extending the scope of excluded material and protecting it from seizure.

The standing committee on the Bill yesterday approved Clause 4, which regulates police powers to mount road checks.

The Reyn-Bardt case

Why an ancient skull trapped a killer

The woman's skull which led to Peter Reyn-Bardt's confession to the killing of his wife was so well preserved by the Cheshire peat bog in which it had lain for more than 1,500 years that it still contained parts of the brain, hair and ligaments when it was found earlier this year.

Indeed, it was only when the remains were sent to the radio-carbon dating laboratory at Oxford University that the police discovered that it could not have belonged to Reyn-Bardt's wife, Marika, who died in June, 1960.

Because the skull was so well preserved and the structure of the nose matched that in a photograph of the missing wife, the pathologist who first examined it was convinced that it came from Marika.

The skull was found in May by a workman excavating peat for a Somerset mushroom farm about 300 yards from Heathfield Cottage in Wilmslow where Reyn-Bardt killed his wife, possibly during an argument over money. When the police were brought in they sent a team of investigators to the mushroom farm to sift through the rest of the peat for further remains.

But the only other item found in that and other searches of the land surrounding Heathfield Cottage was a two-inch long iron pin which could have come from the hair of the skull or a leather working awl. Experts are unsure whether the pin dates from Roman or Saxon times.

Confronted with the discovery of the skull, Reyn-Bardt, who had previously denied

killing his wife, confessed and was taken to Heathfield Cottage to point out the exact spot where he had buried her remains. But when a further search proved fruitless, the police decided to send the skull for radio-carbon dating.

The Oxford archaeological research laboratory was chosen because it has just developed a new £500,000 radio-carbon mass spectrometer which can date organic material to within a 140-year period.

Tests, which were completed in October, showed that the skull had belonged to a woman aged between 30 and 50 who had died in about AD410 during the final years of the Roman occupation of Britain.

According to Dr John Gower, senior archaeologist at the Oxford radio-carbon unit, the remains of severed heads of women from the Dark Ages have been found in peat bogs in various parts of northern Europe, particularly Denmark and Ireland.

In 1824 a similar skull was found in Lancashire. Another was found in Cumbria, also during the nineteenth century when peat was dug by hand.

Archaeologists believe that the heads, always of women, were buried either as part of some ritual or because they were guilty of some heinous crime.

After dating the skull, Dr Gower visited the spot where it was found and discovered that the ground was still very wet. Other research into local documents disclosed that a wooden track had run across the bog in ancient times.

How to spot that short measure

By Tony Samaras

More than half of public houses may be serving short measures of spirits, a survey of hotels and bars in Merseyside has shown. Trading standards officers bought about 60 drinks and found that more than 35 of them were short-measured.

Although Merseyside County Council prosecuted 12 licensees, who were fined a total of more than £800, officers conceded that most of the violations were probably inadvertent.

Confusion generally arises with non-standard spirits, such as single malt whiskies, fine brandies and the like, which are not connected to Optic measures and therefore require the use of a thimble. Mr Peter Mawdsley, principal investigations officer for Merseyside, says bar staff are often not properly trained in use of the thimble. "The thimble measure should be filled to the top, and if there is any spillage it should fall into the glass. Customers should insist on seeing their drink poured."

The most celebrated short-measure case recently, in which the Savoy Hotel in London admitted selling a short measure of malt whisky in its American bar, also involved a waiter described in court as "a young, inexperienced chap".

Drinkers who want to check a measure should watch the bartender filling the thimble. It should be held absolutely level over the glass and filled to the brim. Even Optics can be fiddled by withdrawing the glass too quickly.

Ice in the glass makes it almost impossible to guess whether the measure is accurate.

Christmas gift for Rock

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Coinciding with the first anniversary of Spain's partial relaxation of the frontier restrictions for Gibraltar, residents of the Rock from yesterday will be allowed during

Spain's 'right to education' Bill

Church and state battle over private schools

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A long running controversy over state-financed education came to a climax this week, as the Spanish Parliament debated the so-called "right to education" Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, Señor Jose Maria Maravall.

Doctrinaire socialism and militant Catholicism are struggling for influence, while many ordinary parents and taxpayers that only want the best education for their children that state funding can provide.

The minister, who holds an Oxford doctorate in sociology, under attack for choosing to send his own children to Madrid's fee-paying British Institute. Opponents of the Bill charge that he wants to deprive other parents of their right to choose a religious education for their children.

They do not stop short of accusing the Socialist minister of attempting to abolish Spain's Catholic Church-run education altogether.

Spain is remarkable for having more than one third of its primary and secondary education run privately. Most private schools are in the hands of the Catholic Church, but receive state subsidies of up to 100 per cent.

The Church built up this almost unique position during the Franco period. In Zaragoza, for example, there were only two state grammar schools and more than 50 private secondary schools at the time of the dictator's death in 1975.

A majority of Spain's Catholic bishops, believing they enjoy the firm support of the Pope, are anxious to maintain the young in a country where almost everyone is nominally a Catholic.

Señor Maravall's Bill would replace the education law of 1979, introduced by the Centre Democrats, which gave the

Church generous funds for education with little supervision.

The minister hardly helped matters, however, when he addressed a Socialist teachers' congress last weekend and accused the entire private sector of being motivated only by the desire for economic gain.

Tomorrow the Catholic lay organizations are preparing their reply, urging millions of parents to demonstrate in the big cities and help to collect up to 10 million signatures for a petition against the Bill.

The right-wing Father Angel Suertes, chairman of the Feder-

ation of Private Education Establishments, who is locked in a power struggle with the Education Minister, claimed yesterday that the state had a constitutional obligation to finance his organization's schools regardless of the parliamentary debate.

What most angers owners of the privately-run schools is that supervision by the state would be coupled with new school councils, on which parents and staff could easily out-vote the proprietors and the headmasters both on administrative matters and the curriculum.

Señor Maravall: Lamented attack on church schools.

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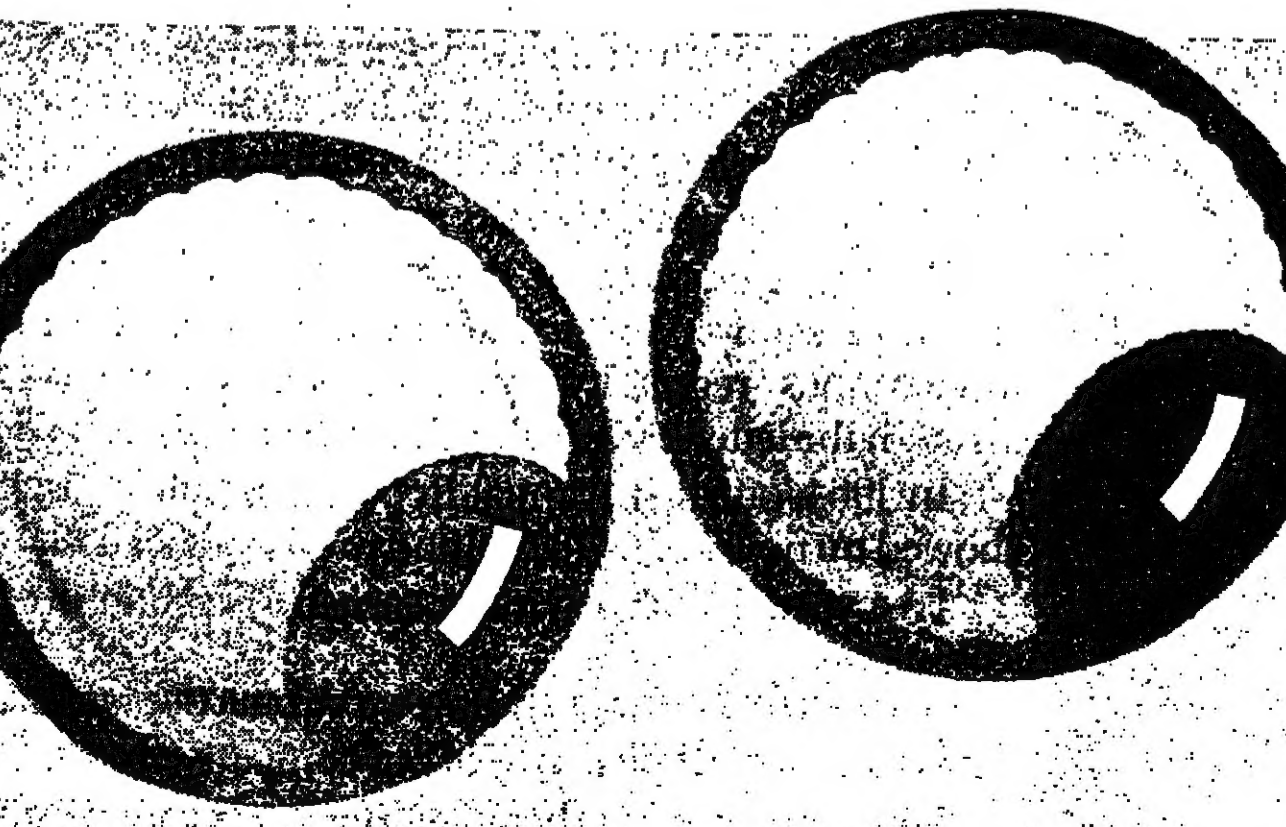
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Señor Maravall: Lamented attack on church schools.



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Lebanon's President in London

Gemayel sounds warning about peace troops quitting too soon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Hasty withdrawal of the multinational peace keeping force (MNF) from Beirut would have "very grave consequences" for the Middle East and for the world at large, President Gemayel of Lebanon said yesterday.

It would undermine the "promising" process of reconciliation among the country's warring factions (which was begun at Geneva last month), he told a press conference in London. He was on an official visit, which ended yesterday.

President Gemayel hoped soon to announce the date and place for the next round of reconciliation talks, at which he would like to fix the terms of reference for a new "broad-based government of national unity".

But he would not confirm reports that negotiations would resume in Montreux, Switzerland, next week. That would have to wait until after a meeting in Damascus on Sunday between the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting would also discuss the withdrawal of Mr Yasser Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organisation troops from Tripoli, he said.

At Geneva the parties had been impressed by how much they had in common. Now he wanted them all to work for the withdrawal of foreign "illegal" forces from his country - by which he meant those of Syria, Israel, Iran, Libya and the PLO. But Lebanon's relations with Syria were "excellent". He hoped to visit Damascus as soon as President Assad's health had improved. "I wish him a prompt recovery," Mr Gemayel said, though he would not comment on the nature of the Syrian leader's illness.

President Gemayel was scathing about the "superficial" nature of the reconciliation talks. He said that critical articles in the British press, one of which had questioned whether Lebanon was worth saving.

But he was full of praise and gratitude for those countries, including Britain, which had supplied contingents for the MNF.

"I know you would like some indication of how long it might be before the British contingent can return home. Indeed, if I knew that, there would be no need for their presence in Lebanon."

"It will be the responsibility of the new broadly based government to arrange with the countries concerned the withdrawal of the MNF after that of all other foreign forces. Lebanon is under a moral obligation to see that all those of our friends who have come to our aid, return home safe and untouched."

● STRASBOURG: It was vitally important to involve the Soviet Union in the search for peace in the Middle East, King Hussein of Jordan told the European Parliament yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

The king, in Strasbourg to be

awarded the Parliament's gold medal, called on Europe to highlight the need for a dialogue between the two superpowers to prevent the danger of new polarisations and a disastrous new eruption of violence in the Middle East.

The king was highly critical of the American position. He said Israel seemed to be encouraged in its expansionist quest by American reluctance to remain true to the fundamental principle of international law that territory could not legally be taken by force.

The "so-called strategic and cooperation alliance" between the United States and Israel he regarded as being contrary to the spirit of President Reagan's own peace proposals and had allowed Israel to pursue its own expansionist policies.

They have all but totally destroyed United States credibility and allowed the spectre of superpower polarisation to loom, menacingly over the area."

Begin, but without the shrill rhetoric, provocative statements and excessive security measures associated with Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister.

Speaking at Bracha, a controversial new outpost overlooking the Palestinian town of Nablus, Mr Shamir surprised his ultra-nationalist audience by saying that stone-throwing was only a secondary problem. He stressed that those who attacked Jews

Shamir calms angry settlers

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah

Angry calls from Jewish settlers for harsher policies against Arab stone-throwers, including deportation and stiff minimum jail sentences, were yesterday rejected by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, making his first tour of the occupied West Bank as Prime Minister.

His remarks were seen as heralding a new era in which Israel will pursue the expansionist settlement policy inaugurated under Mr Menachem

Begin, but without the shrill rhetoric, provocative statements and excessive security measures associated with Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister.

Speaking at Bracha, a controversial new outpost overlooking the Palestinian town of Nablus, Mr Shamir surprised his ultra-nationalist audience by saying that stone-throwing was only a secondary problem. He stressed that those who attacked Jews

were a small section of the 800,000 West Bank Arab population.

After listening to complaints from Jewish West Bank leaders - including a twice-repeated claim that the Jews were "dogs in Arab eyes" because of the lack of physical response to recent attacks - Mr Shamir delivered a considered reply which included a call for self-restraint.

"We belong to the same school of thought," he told the settlers. "But we absolutely must not get involved in settlers' violence. Those people who have been strong in what they have built must also be strong in self-control."



Knife protest: A Druze fighter reacts angrily to the Israeli evacuation of Christian militiamen from Deir el-Qamar.

Journalists under US Marine fire

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

As if journalists did not have enough problems with the armed militias of Lebanon, an American television crew yesterday found itself under fire from US Marines after its driver took a wrong turning into the marine compound at Beirut airport.

The driver was grazed in the head by a bullet and the reporter, Mr Joe Corcoran, from a National Broadcasting Company affiliate in North Carolina, was hurt by broken glass when the marine guards shot at their car.

It was a sign of just how nervous the Marines have become in Beirut - and just how dangerous the craft of journalism is becoming in the world's most dangerous city. The crew's car apparently resembled a vehicle which might be carrying a bomb, and the driver, a Lebanese, failed to stop when the Marines fired warning shots into the ground around the vehicle.

He made the cardinal error of trying to reverse in panic, at which the Marines shot to kill and missed.

As Mr Robert Perry, the news director of WITN-TV put it bluntly, if a rifle misfires, afterwards: "We got a driver that apparently didn't know where he was going and almost got us killed. I think they (the Marines) were justified in doing what they did. They told him to halt and he didn't."

In fact, Marines had earlier given the driver incorrect instructions on how to enter the heavily guarded base.



DESPITE HIS AGE THIS ONE WILL RUN... AND RUN!

I NEVER SAID NEVER AGAIN

Doubts over future of Vienna talks

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Doubts over the future of the long-running East-West talks in Vienna on Mutual Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) persisted last night, after delegates broke up for Christmas without fixing a date for their resumption.

The Western side had proposed a return to the negotiating table on January 26, but the Warsaw Pact countries for once had not responded.

Mr Willem de Vos van Steenwijk of Holland, who acted as Nato spokesman, said the Western powers regretted the outcome.

The confusion was not unexpected, coming after extensive leaking in the West, where diplomats have tried to play down the significance of the Soviet-led action.

Soviet officials have themselves been at pains to indicate that a date for resumption is likely to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

But Herr Andre Wicland, the East German Ambassador to the talks, said pointedly that the West's rejection of "all practical solutions" had raised the question of whether the negotiations could continue at all in their present form.

MBFR talks opened exactly 10 years ago with the objective of negotiating a reduction in the number of troops on either side in Central Europe. But they have been deadlocked for most of the time, most recently over Warsaw Pact insistence that it has 150,000 fewer forces than Nato contends.

The Soviet Union walked out of the Geneva talks on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) last month, then refused to agree to a date for the resumption of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start).

● GENEVA: Neutral and non-aligned countries are determined to prevent the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures in Europe, opening on January 17, from becoming another arena for confrontation between the superpowers, the Yugoslav delegate, Professor Acimovic, said yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

He was speaking after two days of talks which, he added, showed much common ground between representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Yugoslavia, Malta, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and San Marino.

● PARIS: A person "of very high rank in the Russian hierarchy" will make an official visit to Paris at the beginning of January, it was announced here yesterday (Diana Goddes writes). Observers believe that the main purpose of such a visit would be to discuss the Euromissile crisis.

Prosecutor seeks 7 years for nanny

Livorno (Reuters) - The

prosecution in the trial of Carol Compton, the Scottish nanny, called yesterday for a seven-year prison sentence for arson and attempted murder.

In his two-hour summing-up speech, the prosecutor, Signor Arturo Cindolo, told the jury that a two-year-old girl had been killed by a fire which he alleged to have been started by the nanny.

Miss Compton is standing trial for crimes the prosecution says she committed while working for two Italian families in 1982. She denies the charges, which claim that one of the five fires she is alleged to have lit was meant to kill a three-year-old child in her care.

Speaking on the fourth day of the trial, Signor Cindolo said he could offer little explanation for the crimes, although he repeated suggestions that Miss Compton might have lit the fires so that she could return to her boyfriend in Rome.

Earlier in the day the court heard evidence from two psychiatrists who said they found Miss Compton to be fundamentally sane, although with some mental abnormalities.

He also attacked the British press who, he said, had talked of witches and then said "we were to try her for witchcraft. We are here to judge calmly and logically... something which is logical for us must be so for the whole world."

Going through what he said were inconsistencies and contradictions in Miss Compton's story, he said she was the only person who could have started the fires.

But he added: "I can't bring you witnesses, there aren't any. Nobody can say 'I saw Compton start the fire'."

The two psychiatric witnesses rejected suggestions in court that Miss Compton might have faked poltergeist activity to disguise pyromania.

Three judges indicted

Chicago (AP) - Three present and former Cook County circuit judges and seven other men have been indicted here after a three-year undercover investigation of corruption in America's largest court system.

Those indicted were judges Wayne Olson and John Murphy, and former Judge John

Devine, a Chicago policeman, four attorneys, a deputy clerk and a private individual.

The indictments alleged bribes or demands for pay-offs ranging from \$30 (£21) to \$30,000. The cases ranged from relatively minor offences, such as traffic tickets, to drug cases and such matters as divorces and trust funds.

Bomb hits S African ministry

Johannesburg (AFP, AP) - At least seven people were hurt when two bombs exploded yesterday in two buildings in central Johannesburg, the South African news agency Sapa reported.

One of the devices apparently went off in an office of the Foreign Ministry, on the fourth floor of a building opposite Johannesburg City Hall. Police cordoned off glass-fronted streets around the 11-storey building and an office block next door which was also damaged.

Poll boycott

Kingston, (AP) - Jamaicans yesterday went through the motions of a national election, but with only six constituencies being contested out of 60, the ruling party of Mr Edward Seaga is assured of remaining in power. The main opposition party boycotted the poll.

Fatal defoliant

Belém, Brazil (AFP) - Forty-two people have died from a defoliant use by a private electrification firm, Senhor Joao Batista Bastos, Agriculture Minister of state of Para, said here. The defoliant was used to cut a swathe through the Amazonian jungle to build a 500-mile power line.

Tutu praised

Durban (AP) - A mercy plea by Bishop Desmond Tutu saved the lives of four white mercenaries sentenced to be hanged for a bungled coup attempt in the Seychelles, Martin Doinichek, a mercenary freed from a long jail sentence, said here. He praised the bishop as a "committed Christian".

Star's son fined

Paris (AP) - Paul Belmondo, aged 20, the car-racing son of Jean-Paul Belmondo, the film actor, was given a one-month suspended prison sentence and fined about £400 for assaulting a photographer who attempted to take his picture with Princess Stephanie of Monaco.

Bomber appeals

Rangoon (AP) - Captain Kang Min Chul, a North Korean, sentenced to death last week for his role in the bombing which killed 21 persons, including four South Korean Cabinet members here in October, is to appeal. Major Zin Mo, also sentenced to death, did not appeal.

Player cleared

Stockholm (AP) - Ulyashev Bykov, a Soviet ice-hockey player accused of shoplifting in a department store, was acquitted by a court here.

Climber killed

Katmandu (AP) - A 37-year-old technician from Warsaw was killed instantly after falling 230ft during an assault on Mount Manaslu in northwest Nepal.

Costly review

Düsseldorf (AP) - A West German court has ordered a food critic to pay damages to a restaurant owner who was forced to close after a review that compared one of his entrées to "shoe leather and coal." The amount will be decided later.

Clashes on French press Bill

From Diana Goddes, Paris

A debate began in the French Parliament last night on the Government's highly controversial Bill on press monopolies. This is aimed officially at limiting the size of press conglomerates and unofficially at breaking the back of the right-wing Hersant press empire.

The previous night an Opposition censure motion accusing the Government of attacking the fundamental right of freedom of information was overwhelmingly defeated by 247 votes to 158, but only after heated exchanges which at one stage prompted the Prime Minister to walk out, followed by the Socialist and Communist MPs.

The Bill seeks to prohibit any one man or group from owning more than three national papers whose combined circulation

must not exceed 15 per cent of total national newspaper sales; owning both a national daily paper and a provincial daily paper; and owning provincial dailies (of unlimited number) whose combined circulation exceeds 15 per cent of total provincial daily sales.

In addition, it stipulates that the name of the person who owns or controls a newspaper must in future be published in each issue of that paper, together with the titles of any other papers within the same ownership, the name of the editor and the size of the paper's circulation.

M Robert Hersant, owner of the leading right-wing daily, *Le Figaro*, falls foul of the proposed law in two ways. He owns three national papers whose combined sales amount to 40 per cent of the total, and 14

provincial dailies, whose sales are within the proposed limit, as well as some 18 other publications.

He would therefore either have to sell all his national titles and keep his provincial papers, or sell all his provincial papers and in addition one or two of his national papers so as to bring his national circulation within the 15 per cent limit. There is no circulation limit for a single paper.

M Hersant, who is used to fighting battles, claims and indeed acts as if he is not worried.

One source of comfort to M Hersant is his conviction that the provisions of the Bill will not be able to be enforced until 1986, by which time he believes that France will have voted a right-wing majority back into Parliament.

Washington mission by Trudeau

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, after touring the world in the past two months with his nuclear disarmament proposals, yesterday brought his peace initiative to President Reagan here.

Mr Trudeau hopes that his campaign will eventually produce a meeting of five nuclear weapons powers - the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China - aimed at reducing nuclear tension, and bringing about nuclear non-proliferation and better crisis management. Reagan Administration officials have been lukewarm to such a five-power meeting at this stage.

Mr Trudeau has discussed his proposals in several West European capitals, as well as in Tokyo, Peking and at the recent Commonwealth summit in Delhi. He hopes to visit Moscow for similar consultations at a date yet to be fixed.

His proposals include a ban on "star wars", anti-satellite systems and clamping a lid on the current angry East-West rhetoric.

Atom tests damage not proved

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

Studies on Australians who took part in British atomic tests on Monte Bello Island and at Maralinga in the 1950s and 1960s have concluded that there is no evidence to suggest the tests had adverse effects.

The studies, tabled in the Senate yesterday, were carried out by the Federal Department of Health and looked at the health of more than 9,000 people.

Dr Neal Blewett, the Minister for Health, said he had long recognized the concern of many former participants in the tests about the possible long-term effects of exposure to radiation. However, these latest studies confirmed that it was not possible to demonstrate that exposure to radiation had had significant adverse effects.

In February, Mr Doug Rickard, a member of the health physics team at Maralinga from 1957 to 1959, suggested that radiation readings taken from people involved in the British tests had been faked.

Walesa to lay wreath

Gdansk (Reuters) - Mr Lech

Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity trade union, said yesterday that he would lay flowers today at a monument to shipyard workers killed by police, as union supporters prepared for a day of anti-government protest.

Solidarity hopes, page 14

Underground Solidarity spokesmen have urged Poles to demonstrate peacefully in Warsaw and other cities to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the killings during food riots in Gdansk in 1970.

Educated men rule, but academic chaos reigns

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The newly installed government of Mr Turgut Ozal is, educationally, one of the most impressive in Turkey's history, including 11 engineers, three financial experts, two doctors of medicine, a jurist and an economist. Most have degrees from Western universities.

However, the background of this comparatively young team contrasts sharply with the state of the universities, reduced to a shambles by controversial "reform" and ensuing purges by the former military regime.

In an attempt to end what was seen as intellectual support for the political terrorism which racked the country in the pre-1980 years, the universities were brought under state control through the creation,

two years ago, of a higher education board.

Of its 25 members, eight were appointed by the president, one by the chief of the general staff, six by the Council of Ministers and two by the Ministry of Education, leaving only eight members for the universities to elect themselves.

Mandated to impose stern discipline on the then-autonomous higher education institutions and substitute a "national" culture for "harmful foreign ideologies", the board started a series of purges which put an abrupt end to the careers of many liberal academics and those suspected of being Marxists.

Many others resigned in protest at this attack on academic freedom, or quit to avoid the consequences of

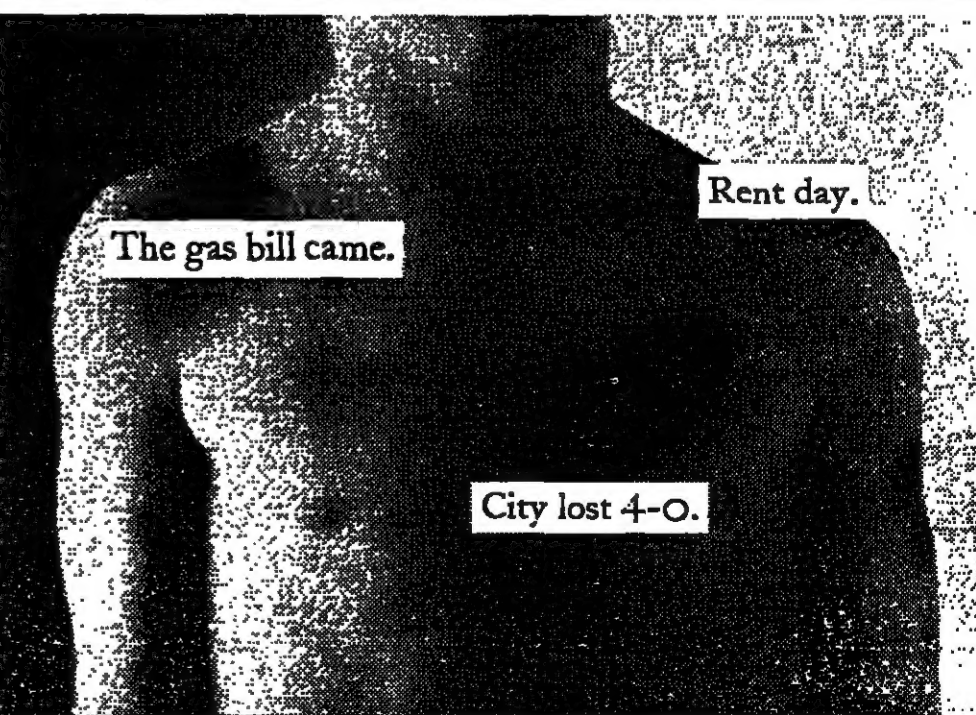
dismissal ordered by the martial law authorities which entailed disqualification for life from any further government service.

A dismissed assistant professor from the faculty of political sciences at Ankara university one of the most elite institutions, until recently regarded as an "incubator" for trained bureaucrats for government service, told *The Times* that the teaching staff of 162 was almost halved in two years after the establishment of the board, despite an approximate 40 per cent increase in the number of students.

Professor Ismail Dogramaci, the president of the board, remains confident that the "reform" he has masterminded will prove to be of benefit to the universities in the long run and

refuses to admit any serious after-effects of the purges. He says that those dismissed constitute an insignificant number of the total teaching staff. But he was forced to attempt, with poor results so far, to recruit academics from abroad, particularly Britain.

Academic circles remain pessimistic about the prospects of a liberalization of the measures in the near future, even by the government of Mr Ozal, whose election manifesto had backed multi-party democracy, along with moderation. Indeed, in an interview earlier this month, the victor of the poll was quoted as being careful not to commit himself to a revision of the higher education policies, noting that the new regulations enjoyed constitutional sanctity.



Luckily, we got there before his father was made redundant.

Most families cope with everyday problems and anxieties.

But some parents just can't tolerate the stress. For them each difficulty is seen as a catastrophe. Bitter and frustrated, they resort to violence and often inflict it on those they should be closest to - their own children.

Since 1984, the NSPCC has helped save more than 9 million children from suffering serious or fatal injuries at the hands of their parents.

Sometimes we can only do it by removing the children. But in most cases we keep the family together. We sort out the problems that led to the violence. And we stay in touch once the family is more stable - ready to help at any time if another crisis occurs.

We can't do it without spending money of course. And for that, we depend almost entirely on your generosity. Any donation you can make

now will help us continue to remove the problems from a home, and not the children.

Without your continued support the NSPCC won't survive.

Without the NSPCC, neither will hundreds of children.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £..... Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No.

Name

Signature

Address

Postcode

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilmore, NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS

Alfonsín begins military purge by naming four new chiefs of staff

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín has named four new chiefs of staff of the armed forces, in the first step towards what he promised would be a "substantial and profound" reform of Argentina's military structure.

The Defence Minister, Señor Borras, announced the appointments on Wednesday night, just 24 hours after President Alfonsín ordered the trial of nine former military junta members on charges of murder, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty, in connection with human rights abuses.

General Julio Fernández Torres, a career infantry officer who once disobeyed orders from former President Galtieri during the Falklands war, is to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is Argentina's top-ranking military post, president Alfonsín eliminated the rank of commander-in-chief in all three services on the ground that the constitution empowers the

President to be commander-in-chief of all military forces.

General Jorge Argüelles, an officer with a reputation of being non-political, was named Chief of Staff of the Army. Rear Admiral Ramón Arana was designated Chief of Staff of the Navy, and Brigadier Teodoro Waldner will occupy the same post in the Air Force.

President Alfonsín's choices imply a virtual purge of the existing military leadership, as the promotion of younger officers will automatically force 29 generals into retirement from the Army, 17 admirals from the Navy and two brigadiers from the Air Force.

The new Government has pledged to rid the armed forces of officers with political ambitions and to place the military under firm civilian control which may turn out to be the most difficult task facing Señor Alfonsín.

Besides their long history of invention in Government,

Argentina's armed forces greatly increased their economic and political power during the last seven years of military rule. The armed forces are also widely believed to have become corrupt and to be responsible for numerous atrocities during their campaign against left-wing terrorism in the mid-1970's.

President Alfonsín has promised that those officers responsible for human rights violations will be brought to justice, and that he will transform the services into "strong, effective armed forces that will play their proper role within the constitution."

General Fernández Torres, the centerpiece of the Government's military reforms, reportedly refused to obey an order from General Galtieri to launch a parachute attack on Goose Green during last year's war on the ground that it would inflict unacceptably high casualties on the Argentine troops.

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Nun killed: Sister Joan Sawyer from Belfast (in white, back), a Columbian Order nun, who was killed in a shoot-out in Lima, Peru, after being taken hostage, with three other nuns, by 18 escaped convicts. She was a social worker with slum-dwellers, pictured with her. Four convicts also died in the gun battle with police.

Meese's remarks hard to swallow

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

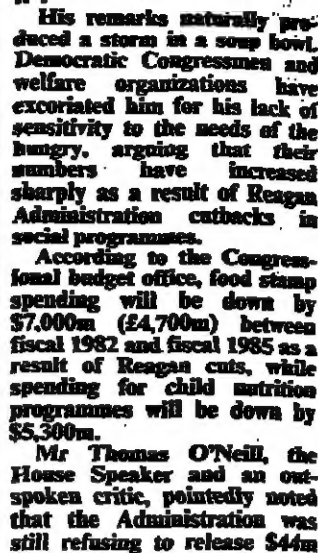
Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, has the pink, rounded countenance of someone who likes to eat well, which perhaps partly explains why a remark he made about hunger in America created such a political storm.

In a recent interview, Mr Meese said he had never seen authoritative figures that were as hungry children in the US. He also said he had "considerable information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free" and "that's easier than paying for it."

His remarks naturally produced a storm in a soup bowl. Democratic Congressmen and welfare organizations have excoriated him for his lack of sensitivity to the needs of the hungry, arguing that their numbers have increased sharply as a result of Reagan Administration cutbacks in social programmes.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, food stamp spending will be down by \$7,000m (£4,700m) between fiscal 1982 and fiscal 1985 as a result of Reagan cuts, while spending for child nutrition programmes will be down by \$5,300m.

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and an outspoken critic, pointedly noted that the Administration was still refusing to release \$44m



Mr Meese: A storm in a soup bowl.

which Congress has approved to finance the distribution of surplus foodstuffs to the needy.

Like Mr Meese, Mr O'Neill's own bulky physique suggests that he is not exactly on the breadline. But having grown up in one of the poorest cities in America - Boston - he knows what it is like to be hungry.

President Reagan has leapt to Mr Meese's (and his Administration's) defence, charging that his counsellor's remarks were taken out of context and expressing his determination to eliminate hunger in America.

"If there is one person hungry in this country, that is one too many," he said, adding that his Administration was doing more to alleviate hunger than any previous one. The President's defence of Mr Meese was not only a show of loyalty to a trusted aide but was also intended to prevent Democrats from making too much political mileage from his hunger remarks.

New opinion polls show that a majority of Americans believe the Administration's cutbacks in social programmes have created hardship for many people.

Democratic contenders have already made it clear the "hunger issue" will be one of their main lines of attack on the President's record. Remarks like Mr Meese's merely help create an impression that Republicans believe soup is the first course of a five-course meal, rather than sustenance for many thousands of hungry Americans.

King has last laugh in Malaysia crisis

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's four-and-a-half-year constitutional deadlock has ended as abruptly as it began. But the acting King, signing the controversial amendments to law, yesterday had the last laugh.

Besides getting a written undertaking from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, for a special parliamentary session next month to incorporate the ruler's objections into the constitution, he placed him on the defensive.

The constitutional amendments, passed last August, had 23 provisions, which apart from the contentious provisions the rulers objected to, also included the new parliamentary and state boundaries.

If these changes were not gazetted into law by Thursday the boundaries could not be altered for another eight years.

Considerable political problems would then have been brought to bear upon the Prime Minister from his own supporters.

The rulers objected to the provisions that transferred the authority to impose an emergency from the King to the Prime Minister, the extension of some of these provisions to the states, and the automatic assent into law of any Bill that the King did not sign within 15 days of it being presented to him.

The special parliamentary session would be held before January 11, when Datuk Seri Mahathir goes to the United States on an official visit.

There are indications that the original amendments were ill conceived and followed a fear by Dr Mahathir that the next King - probably the Sultan of Perak of Johore - would be as independent in Kuala Lumpur as they are in the states.

Dr Mahathir, as part of the compromise, would ensure that the parliamentary session next month would restore the rulers' powers in the state, and give the power to impose the emergency back to the King.

If the King disagreed with a Bill, he could send it back to Parliament for further debate. If Parliament passed it again, this time with a two-thirds majority, it would become law within 30 days.

Ironically, this could prove to be a delaying action that the Government may not like. Some sources speculated yesterday that the King could use this power to delay emergency Bills that the Government sometimes gets through Parliament in a day.

But these provisions are hypothetical at best. No King has refused to sign any Bill in the 26 years since independence.

The bigger political problem for Dr Mahathir is that in the run-up to the crisis he had managed to split his United Malays National Organisation.

Undeterred by the threat that Greece might seize "Achmetaga", his 11,000-acre wooded estate on the island of Euboea, Mr Francis Noel-Baker, the former Labour MP for Swindon, is planning to develop it into a holiday resort.

Last weekend, he accompanied Mr John Blay, of Clydebank International, the British developers, for a survey of the area. "In the first phase", Mr Noel-Baker said, "we plan to build 50 holiday villas on non-forest land." Mr Blay said the intention was to start developing early in the spring.

By then, of course, the Greek Government will have made up its mind whether it will declare invalid the Noel-Baker title to this land which are said to date back to 1832.

"Achmetaga" was named after the Turkish landowner who sold it for 10,000 gold sovereigns to Edward Noel, the present owner's great-grandfather, when Greece regained its independence.

A ruling of the Supreme Forestry Commission last month challenged the validity of the Noel-Baker title on the ground that the Turkish title-deed surrendered unacceptably, not ownership.

Mr Moschos Gikenogios, the Greek Under-Secretary of Agriculture, who must accept or reject the commission's recommendation, said: "We have nothing against Mr Noel-Baker. We referred to the

Man against the state Ex-MP fights to keep his land

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The sum is barely one-twentieth of the taxable value of the forest as calculated by the Greek Authorities.

"I am quite prepared to give them one-twentieth of the forest for that sum, provided they give it to the village," he told *The Times*.

The action against Mr Noel-Baker was the culmination of an eight-year campaign against him on the ground that he supported the military junta which ruled Greece between 1967 and 1974. Trouble began in 1975 when a local "struggle committee" was set up in Prokopio, the village of "Achmetaga". It organized demonstrations, calling for the expulsion of the Noel-Bakers and the seizure of the estate.

In one incident, the crowds went on a rampage, burning estate buildings and desecrating family graves. Mr Noel-Baker dismissed the troubles as communist-inspired and denied he had collaborated with the junta on any but humanitarian grounds.

The then Conservative government, bending to popular pressure, challenged his land title and prohibited the exploitation of the forest or the farm, or its sale.

Mr Noel-Baker has appealed to the Greek courts against this ban, which, he maintains, is in violation of Community law against discrimination of nationals of other EEC countries.

commission 122 similar cases of contested titles of private forests. We could hardly have exempted him."

Mr Noel-Baker believes the Government established this new procedure in an attempt to take over his estate without paying adequate compensation required by the constitution. He said he would fight his case in the Greek courts.

Greek officials claimed that in earlier negotiations Mr Noel-Baker had revoked an offer to give the 10,700 acres of fir and pine forest to the state. If it let him keep his house, 50 acres of farm land, and exempted him from all arrears of taxes and duties, the Government had responded favourably.

Mr Noel-Baker denies making such an offer. He said his tax liabilities stood at \$43,000. "I have no arrears," he said.

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The Social Democrats, who called for a postponement of the census in the spring, said the judgment was an important step in strengthening privacy. The Greens, however, who led the move to boycott the census - which the Government threatened to punish with fines of up to DM10,000 (£2,500) for anyone refusing to fill in the forms - are unlikely to be mollified.

The questions the census will pose include those on religious affiliation, earnings, employment, housing and education. The Ministry of the Interior reckoned that the abortive April census would have cost DM137m, and needed 500,000 enumerators.

No enumerators would have been allowed to enter anyone's home, or disclose the answers they were given. But in Bavaria at least they would have been given a reward of DM2.50 for each German and DM5 for each foreigner they reported to the police whom they suspected to be either an unregistered citizen or illegal immigrant.

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Knife attack on Tanaka's bitter rival

Nagasaki, Japan (Reuters) - A man brandishing a knife yesterday tried to stab Akiyuki Nosaka, the novelist campaigning against Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, in the general election, police said.

Mr Nosaka, dubbed Japan's "Don Quixote" because he is running a full tilt at corruption in high places and trying to topple the country's most powerful politician, was unhurt.

Police said the man, with a mountain-bike knife tried to stab Mr Nosaka as he campaigned for Sunday's election in a market place. The attacker was overwhelmed by Mr Nosaka's aides and handed over to police.

The author, who is 58, is standing as an independent against Mr Tanaka. Commentators have described him as a political kamikaze pilot.

Police said the assailant admitted to interrogators that he wanted to wound Mr Nosaka.

Elsewhere in Japan, campaigning was non-violent but noisy. A further selection of opinion polls showed Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's pro-Western, conservative Government was likely to preserve a stable majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives.

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Go-ahead for census in Germany

From Michael Hayton, Bonn

A national census, planned for last April but cancelled after objections had been lodged with the Constitutional Court, can go ahead, the court decided yesterday. But important changes had first to be made to stop any misuse of the information collected.

The court ruling was welcomed by the Government, which had fought hard to hold the controversial census, insisting it was essential if proper provision was to be made for West Germany's falling population. The Ministry of the Interior, which has given a warning of serious strains on social services, education and medical care because of the changing demographic profile, has said its estimates of the population could be out by up to a million.

The court said the Government was fully entitled to hold a census, the first since 1970, but could not pass on the information to other authorities.

Objections had centred on fears that the computer-processed answers could be used by the police, landlords and credit companies, and that confidential data would not be destroyed after use.

The Social Democrats, who called for a postponement of the census in the spring, said the judgment was an important step in strengthening privacy. The Greens, however, who led the move to boycott the census - which the Government threatened to punish with fines of up to DM10,000 (£2,500) for anyone refusing to fill in the forms - are unlikely to be mollified.

The questions the census will pose include those on religious affiliation, earnings, employment, housing and education. The Ministry of the Interior reckoned that the abortive April census would have cost DM137m, and needed 500,000 enumerators.

No enumerators would have been allowed to enter anyone's home, or disclose the answers they were given. But in Bavaria at least they would have been given a reward of DM2.50 for each German and DM5 for each foreigner they reported to the police whom they suspected to be either an unregistered citizen or illegal immigrant.

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Chancery Division

Law Report December 16 1983

House of Lords

Guardian ordered to return official document

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v Guardian Newspapers Ltd
Before Mr Justice Scott

(Judgment delivered December 15)
His Lordship ordered the return to the plaintiffs, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, of a photostatic copy of a document supplied to a defendant, Guardian Newspapers Ltd, by some person or persons unknown. The document was a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr [redacted] of the Ministry of Defence, for the Prime Minister, which the Guardian had published on October 31.

His Lordship held in the Chancery Division that section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 had no application and that the defendant did not intend thereby to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have it returned to him.

Mr Simon D Brown for the Crown, Lord Rawlinson, QC and Mr Peter Prescott for Guardian Newspapers Ltd.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that on October 31, 1977, the Guardian published a document which they published in full on October 31 under the headline "Heseltine briefing to Thatcher of cruise timing". The Guardian did not know the identity of the person or persons who supplied it, nor was such person or persons obtained it. It was a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated October 20, prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister. Copies were sent to the office of the Prime Minister and to certain other departments, each copy being individually marked so as to identify it from the others. The markings had been partly obliterated, but might suffice to identify from which of the original copies it was made.

Obviously the original memorandum and the original copies were the property of the Crown. It could not be doubted that the photostatic copy was supplied to the Guardian without any authority from the Crown. It was highly likely that the supply of the copy to the Guardian must have involved a breach of duty by some unidentified employee or officer within one or other of the Departments of State which received copies.

The Crown wished to identify the source of the leak and for that purpose was anxious to recover the document supplied to and still held by the Guardian, and asked for it to be returned. On November 11, in their reply the Guardian offered to return the document, with the markings fully obliterated. That was not satisfactory to the Crown, and accordingly the Crown issued a writ and notice of motion on November 27.

The Guardian had behaved with complete responsibility in the matter. The publication of the document on October 31, followed the questions of public interest that publication might involve. He concluded that the document related to matters of legitimate public debate and that no damage to national security would be caused.

On demand for its delivery up, the editor considered it his duty to protect the anonymous supplier by declining to return it otherwise than after obliteration of the marks that might assist in identifying the source. He made it plain that pending the court's decision the marks would not be obliterated or the document destroyed or mutilated. Mr Simon Brown based his case on ownership of the document. Copyright in the original document was clearly vested in the secretary of state or in the Crown under sections 2, 4 and 59 of the Copyright Act 1956, and its unauthorized copying was an infringement of copyright and under section 18 (1) the copyright owner had the same right to infringing copies as if he were the owner.

The court had been referred to the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977 which had created a statutory tort of "wrongful interference with goods", which stood as a substitute for the previous torts of detinue, conversion and trespass to goods.

Section 3 of the 1977 Act provided that the relief was either (a) an order for delivery of the goods, and for payment of any consequential damages, or (b) an order for delivery, but giving the defendant the alternative of paying damages by reference to the value of the goods, together in either alternative with payment of any consequential damages, or (c) damages. By section 3 (3) relief could only be given under one head and head (a) was at the court's discretion.

Lord Rawlinson argued that the court should decline to exercise its discretion on the ground that there was public interest in material and information concerning matters of current public debate being made available to the press; that the order for delivery up of the document might enable the source to be identified; that no overriding point of national security was raised, and that the remedy of delivery up ought to be declined.

The intrinsic value of the document held by the Guardian was nil, and no consequential damage capable of judicial recognition had been or would be suffered by retention of the document by the Guardian. To deny a remedy under head (a) would in effect deprive the Crown of a remedy at all.

It could not be a permissible exercise of the court's discretion to attach to an order for delivery up a condition that permitted the Guardian to deface the document by removing the identifying marks. The discretion was to order delivery of the goods - which must mean delivery up in their present state - or to refuse such an order and leave the Crown to a remedy in damages, a refusal of relief under head (a) would represent a misuse of the discretion and be an injustice to the plaintiffs.

Accordingly, his Lordship concluded that, subject to section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the Crown was entitled to recover their property and delivery up of the document.

Under Order 29, rule 2 A (1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, an order for delivery could be made in interlocutory proceedings, but it would not be right to do so if there was a reasonably arguable defence, particularly where the goods were not in jeopardy pending trial. *Contra*, if the defendants could show no reasonably arguable defence it

would ordinarily be right to make an order for delivery at an interlocutory stage. *Manchester Corporation v Connolly* ([1970] Ch 420, 426).

The Guardian did not contest the Crown's ownership of the document, but based their defence of section 10 of the 1981 Act, which provided: "No court may require a person to disclose, or is any person to refuse to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or of national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime".

Lord Rawlinson argued that the plaintiffs were seeking to obtain the document in order to identify the source of the leak, and that if they obtained it and were enabled to trace the leak, the defendants by handing over the document would have disclosed the source of the document. But - the argument proceeded - the section enjoined the court against making an order for such disclosure unless one or other of the conditions specified in the section was satisfied, and that none was here satisfied, so that no order should be made.

But in his Lordship's judgment the construction contended for was incorrect. The section enjoined the court from requiring a person to disclose the source of information; it was not directed and could not be applied to oust proprietary remedies to which an owner of property might under the law be entitled.

Lord Rawlinson's construction rewrote the opening sentence thus: "No court may require any person to do anything which may lead to the disclosure of sources of information." His Lordship said that no good reason why he should so read the section.

It was not so phrased. Its provenance was, plainly enough, the litigation commenced by British Steel Corporation against Granada Television Ltd with a view to ascertaining who had leaked certain confidential information to the defendants in that case. The documents had been mutilated so that the identity of the informant could not be ascertained from the markings.

What was sought was that individuals should disclose by affidavit the source of the documents. No proprietary rights in the documents were in question. It was of interest to note that Lord Wilberforce assumed that British Steel ought to recover the documents: see *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* ([1981] AC 1096, 1166).

That background to the 1981 Act provided no support for the view that Parliament intended by section 10 to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have back his document.

Accordingly, in his Lordship's judgment, section 10 had no application to the present case and it followed that the defendants had no defence to the claim.

If his Lordship were wrong, the Guardian could only succeed if the court were satisfied disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime. That provision was directed to the effect of disclosure, not to the effect of publication.

Lord Rawlinson had argued that the contents of the document, relating as it did to the tactics, parliamentary and political that the Government should adopt in regard to the arrival in England of cruise missiles, was such that publication of it could not be said to have affected adversely national security. Mr Brown had accepted that point.

Mr Brown's national security point was otherwise based. He said, first, that there was someone in high places in government service who had leaked the document and that, whether in this instance harm was done, it was a matter of national security that he be exposed so that his potential harm in the future was removed.

Second, it was said that leakage of documents regarding nuclear missiles undermined confidence in the sufficiency of the security arrangements of her Majesty's Government, and that other friendly governments might on that account be reluctant to share with us their secrets. Lord Rawlinson rejected both those points.

There was no need to go into his arguments in detail. Had section 10 applied, it would not, in his Lordship's judgment, have been right to have concluded that the defendants had no arguable defence.

As to Mr Brown's first point there was no real evidence of the class of persons who had access to those documents, nor was it a necessary inference that because some individual was prepared, in breach of duty and reprehensibly, to leak a document of that character, national security was required that he be identified and got rid of.

Second the reaction of other Governments to a leak of that sort ought to be a matter of evidence, tested by cross-examination. His Lordship did not regard it as self-evident that they might react in the manner described.

This was not a case where unless an order was made there would be an order for delivery up of the document. Accordingly had it come to that his Lordship would have left the plaintiffs to make out their case on national security at trial.

The plaintiffs had subsidiary points on interests of justice and prevention of disorder or crime, but his Lordship did not find anything in the untested evidence which satisfied him that those requirements were made out to a standard of certainty that would justify a summary order at this stage.

The Crown was entitled to the order sought, but his Lordship granted a stay until Friday evening, to allow an appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor, Lovell White & King.

Correction

The title of *R v Clerkenwell Green Metropolitan Starch Mill* (The Times December 7) should have been *R v Camberwell Green etc.*

When non-strikers are directly interested in trade dispute

Presho v Department of Health and Social Security
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

(Speeches delivered December 15)

Where groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work and there was a trade dispute between the employers and one of the unions, those workers who belonged to other unions were "directly interested" in the trade dispute within the meaning of section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975 if the outcome of the dispute would be automatically applied "across the board" as a result of a collective agreement or established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the Social Security Commissioner from the decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times May 3, 1983) who allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mrs Kathleen Presho, from the commissioner's dismissal of her appeal against the refusal of the local tribunal for Accrington and Rossendale to allow her claim for unemployment benefit from November 18 to 22, 1978.

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Department of Health and Social Security; Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr John L. Hand for Mrs Presho.

LORD BRANDON said that the claimant was in November 1978 employed by Brooke Bond Oxo Ltd

at its food factory at Great Harwood, Lancashire.

During or following a short period when she was laid off work in consequence of an industrial dispute in which she was not herself a participant, she applied for unemployment benefit. The insurance officer refused her claim on the ground that, in the circumstances, she was disqualified by the relevant legislation from receiving such benefit.

The material facts were set out in the commissioner's decision: "The claimant was employed as an instructor/machine operator in a production unit at the factory. She was a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). Also employed at the factory were 57 maintenance engineers who were members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUWEW).

That union put in a demand for the phase 1 and phase 2 increases (under the pay policy then in force) to be consolidated into their basic wages which demand would, if conceded, presumably represent a financial improvement for them, in that over-time rates calculated on basic rates would thereby be increased.

The management of the factory did not feel able to concede that demand. A work-to-rule was imposed by the maintenance engineers. As a result of an alleged refusal by two engineers to do a particular job and their subsequent suspension, work came to a standstill at the factory.

On November 20, 1978 all 417 production workers were laid off, as

machines were not being repaired.

The stoppage of work ended on November 23, 1978, when work resumed in the factory; the terms of settlement being that pay negotiations would be brought forward to an earlier date in 1979 than had been originally contemplated.

Section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975, before amendment, provided: "A person who has lost employment as an employed earner by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at his place of employment shall be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit so long as the stoppage continues."

but his subsection does not apply in the case of a person who proves - (a) that he is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and (b) that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at his place of employment any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute."

The result of the amendment of that provision by section 111 (1) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was that an employee, who was laid off by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of work employment was disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit unless he could prove (and the burden of proof was on him) two matters: first, that he was not participating, and, second, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.

In the present case it was common ground that the claimant did not participate in the trade dispute between the AUWEW and the management. The sole question, therefore (remembering that the burden of proving the negative was on the claimant) was whether she was "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of that expression as used in section 19 (1).

In his Lordship's view, the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" as used in section 19 (1) as amended, had to be given its ordinary and natural meaning in the context in which it occurred.

That context was that of situations arising out of industrial relations, including among other possible situations that of a trade dispute causing a stoppage of work at some factory or other place of work, at which different groups of workers, belonging to different trade unions, were employed by the same employers.

His Lordship would hold that, where different groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work, and there was a trade dispute between the common employers and one of the unions those workers belonging to other unions were directly, and not merely indirectly, interested in the trade dispute provided that two conditions were fulfilled.

The first was that, whatever might be the outcome of the trade dispute, it would be applied by the common employers not only to the group of workers belonging to the one union participating in the dispute, but also to the other groups

of workers belonging to the other unions concerned.

The second was that application of the outcome of the dispute "across the board" should come about automatically as a result of one or other of three things: first, a collective agreement which was legally binding; or, second, a collective agreement which was not legally binding, or, third, established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

It was, in his Lordship's opinion, a pure question of fact whether, in any particular case, those two conditions were satisfied or not. It was, moreover, a question of fact of a kind which insurance officers, local tribunals and the commissioner were, by reason of their wide knowledge and experience of matters pertaining to industrial relations, exceptionally well qualified to answer.

In the present case the commissioner found as a fact that the two conditions were satisfied, in that the employers would, by reason of the factual situation at the factory, by which he clearly meant the established industrial custom and practice there, apply automatically the outcome of their dispute with AUWEW to other groups of workers belonging to other unions at the same factory, including the group of workers belonging to USDAW, of which the claimant was one. It was not, and could not with any chance of success have been, contended that there was no or insufficient evidence to support that finding of fact by the commissioner.

The appeal should be three important considerations which

supported the approach adopted by his Lordship.

The first was that it accorded with that adopted since 1926 by a substantial number of social security commissioners (or their earlier equivalents) after the expression concerned had first appeared. Observations of the Court of Appeal in *R v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Stratton* ([1979] QB 361, 369, 374) made it clear that, where there had been a consistent line of decisions in the field of national insurance by specialist tribunals over a large number of years, a court should be slow to depart from them.

His Lordship agreed with those observations and regarded them as applicable in the instant case.

The second consideration was that the approach adopted by his Lordship accorded substantially with the ratio decidendi of the majority judgment of the Court of Session in *War v Lord Advocate* (1979 SC 120).

The third consideration was that, if the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" were to be given a narrower and more legalistic interpretation than his Lordship thought it right to give it, the way would be wide open for deliberate and calculated evasions of the basic provision of section 19 (1) as amended, with the result that the effectiveness of the subsection to which its manifest object would be much reduced.

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS; Hestall Erskine & Co.

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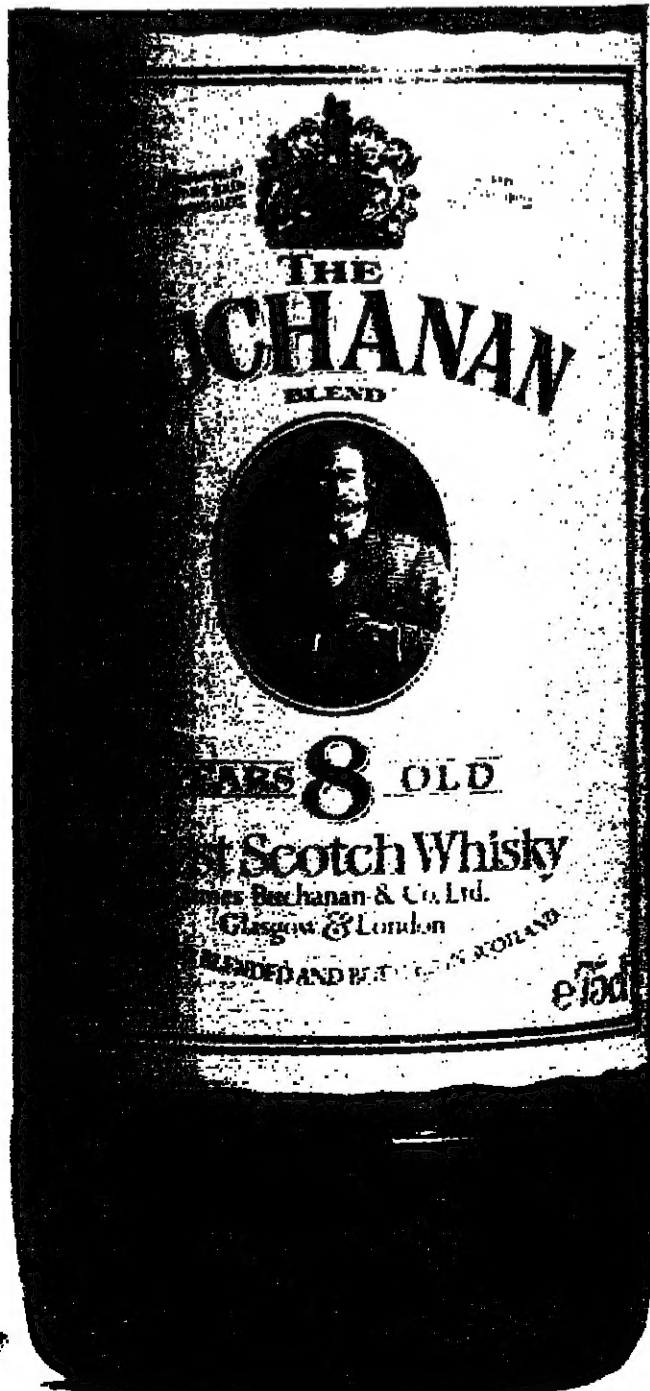
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THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson pays tribute to the genius of Max Linder (left), born 100 years ago today, and reviews new releases in London

Treasurer of visual comedy



One hundred years ago today Gabrielle Linder was born in Saint-Louis, a little village near Bordeaux, where his parents were wine-growers. As Max Linder he was to become the first great international clown in the cinema. In the seven years preceding the First World War he achieved worldwide fame and popularity that were only to be exceeded by Charlie Chaplin. Yet today Linder is hardly remembered, at least outside his native France. When this year's London Film Festival showed *The Man in the Silk Hat*, the delightful biographical tribute by Linder's own daughter, it was the first opportunity for over half a century to see his masterpieces of comedy, but very few Londoners were curious enough to attend the show.

Linder was the only other comedian of silent films to establish a rapport and friendship with Chaplin, who called him "The Master" or "The Professor". Linder was established as a star even before Chaplin joined the Fred Karno music-hall comedy troupe, and his career was already on the wane by 1914 when Chaplin made his first films. In that time, however, Linder had built up a treasury of visual comedy which has continued to serve his successors. Chaplin included - down to the present day - it is hard to discover a comedy plot or a single gag that is not anticipated in the 500 or more short comedies of his prolific output.

Linder was the first to introduce comedy of character to the screen. Other comedians of his generation depended upon frenetic knockabout. The comedy of Linder's films, like that of the later great comedians, rose less from the inherent comedy of the action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own indestructible elegance and style. He was a grotesque he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an occasional tumble in a lake or soiling with a hose) in silk hat, frock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swaggy cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall for either his lady friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection, or

he was forced to desperate measures to avoid large and jealous husbands. The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their times. He revealed a distinctive camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, *Le Bonheur d'un pauvre homme*, he managed as he teeters and tumbles on his skates, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn out his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations, sets, props, were at hand: the Paris streets, Berlin squares and a Madrid corridor when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.

The poles of Linder's creation were the visual reality that came from his habit of using locations in preference to the studio, and the surrealities of his comic imagination. Normally inanimate objects like shoes will develop erotic lives of their own or Linder will launch into nightmares of being discovered taking a bath in public, or engaging in deadly combat with indomitable flypapers. How could such a supreme comic talent come to be forgotten? He was a victim of history. At the moment that Chaplin emerged to eclipse the rest, Linder's career was abruptly halted by the First World War. After it, badly injured both physically and psychologically, he found it hard to rebuild his career. Two adventures in Hollywood production were less than successful. Back in France his feature career was spasmodic. Eventually he could bear no more. On October 30, 1923, apparently in a suicide pact, he and his 20-year-old wife died in a Paris hotel. In the room with them was their baby daughter, Maud Max Linder, who has spent her adult life working to restore the recognition her father deserves. Channel 4, which owes so much for our visual education, plans to show *The Man in the Silk Hat*, her latest and finest tribute, in the near future.

Some of the supporting performers (Edward Fox, Rowan Atkinson) are superb, the compensatory exception is the fifth villain of Klaus Maria Brandauer, easily the best thing in any Bond film since Lotte Lenya honoured *From Russia With Love*. As Max Largo, plutocratic collector of yachts, beautiful women, objects d'art and not least Cakes and Alewife, he displays a serpentine charm and the chill calm at the edge of madness. Brandauer and the old familiar face of Connery very nearly make it all worthwhile. Between the Bond film and *Jaws* 3D much of the week seems to have been spent underwater. Again heard, loyalty will no doubt come into play, though the latest *Jaws* seems aimed at an audience so young that they are likely to suffer nightmares from the interminable shark. The "Paregal Guidance"

process so far seen, giving an impression of full computer and reality. (It only goes wrong if the action is too fast or the viewer lifts his head.) The process now seems only to be waiting for better uses.



Norman Rossington: thunderous applause

Theatre

Bungled burglary

Mother Goose Shaw

The second *Mother Goose* of the week is a slicker and better cast piece of work than the Watford version, with equal claims as a traditional pantomime. But, where Watford gave the story a local twist, the Shaw version simply takes events as they come, dragging the author (Myles Rudge) along in their wake.

On come the Prince of Darkness and his roguishly benevolent opposite number (Joyce Grant) to select Mother Goose's cottage as their battleground, and you expect them to follow through with a plot hinging on human discontent. The Dame then rolls on in the person of a crinolined Norman Rossington who carries contentment to the point of simple-mindedness from her opening tumble off her tricycle to her hospitality towards an orphan on the day she is due for eviction by alimny Squire Bagshot.

The story briefly returns to the rails when the Demon King, posing as a representative of the Wicked Landlords' Protection Society, advises the Squire to steal the golden goose and carry on with the eviction so as to erect a multi-storey car park.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Phoenix

"You said it was *Madrid*", complained a little boy stumbling ahead of me into the stalls. "Well, it's *Snow White*", came the parent reply. "Now shut up! Actually, this show is not too soppy for boys, and anyhow, what with wicked stepmothers disguised as beggar women and coiffured heroines awaiting a prince's kiss, it is hard to remember whether one is seeing *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Sleeping Beauty* or what. Dana is sweet, but she and "All kinds of everything" could belong anywhere - and so, frankly, could these cardboard sets, decidedly too tacky for the West End.

Then along come the seven dwarfs - apparently real ones - silhouetted and stomping over a bridge with lanterns glowing and Hi-Fi noises. Their characterization has little chance to register but their mini-wellies do a rainbow collection from avocado to violet which junior audiences will probably clamour to buy.

Apert from the sticking door (cue for good comic ad-libs), the thudding drop curtain and the

But again, that lapses into a bungled burglary routine by the resident clowns (Jim Dunk and Clive Wood), incorporating an even feebler ghost routine.

The book is full of empty pantomimic tricks (such as the obligatory "big Hello" for the most supercilious character), local ends and undeveloped ideas.

Looking on the bright side, the show has a good score by a fine music-hall bounce and includes numbers, such as a recipe for eel stew, that lend themselves to witty chorus work. Ian Judge's production is at its best as a musical: bringing the conspirators together to defend their egg-grabbing as "All For the Public Good", and greeting the visitors to the North Pole with a chorus line of tap-dancing penguins.

Briefly granted his return to youth, Mr Rossington makes a fetching appearance in a tute, thunderous applause and bowing kisses from his balletic partner. And, besides Robert Austin's Demon King, a satirically Edwardian heavy swell, there is a very classy principal boy from Gay Soper, obvious Prince material however humble his surroundings.

Irving Wardle

Painted well that got nudged aside to let the Dame's sedan chair off stage, my only real gripe is that the show's eye on the box office directs it at a jolly-rare audience: electric guitar and percussion even for *Nutcracker*, dances, and sassy chorus girls as seen on the box.

Even Dame Doughtnut (Frankie Desmond) expects and gets the right reply for "Hi-de-hi!" but he and Muddles (Mike Newman) have the uncanny rapport of a twinkling Paddy and a rugged old cabbage in camiknickers as they bat balls of dough round the house - till everyone winces.

Entering with "Happy Talk" (with blissful incongruity), Dana relaxes into her young audience's vociferous reactions and registers innocent alarm by turning her palms outward as though testing wind resistance prior to takeoff.

Barbara Halliwell's Wicked Queen makes her mark with her chandelier-shattering cackle but the upstaging prize must go to the little red-suited girl, unwisely beckoned on, who peered self-possessedly towards the wings, waved at friends in the audience, and when invited to name herself bashfully wiped her nose with the back of her hand.

Anthony Masters

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Arts Council

Jaws 3D (PG)

Plaza

There would be little point in mentioning that *Never Say Never* said Again, directed by Irvin Kershner, is one of the more tedious entertainments on offer this Christmas. No one would believe it of a James Bond picture; and in any event brand loyalty works such wonders that the film has been topping the box-office charts in the United States since it

opened a couple of months ago, and will certainly be as successful here. The credit titles indicate commercial confidence: the production partners include European Banking Company, Manufacturers Hanover, MFI Furniture Group, Midland Montagu Leasing and the First National Bank of Chicago (London Branch).

Then again there is the reassurance of old times' sake. Sean Connery (after his own protestations of never again) is back, looking hardly a day older or thicker, and still outclassing every other exponent of the role, in the godfathered throwaway with which he parries all the sex and violence on the way.

The story recycles *Thunderball*, in which Connery starred 18 years ago; but Lorenzo Semple Jr's script is a rather monotonous switchback with Bond alternately placed in fixes and then ingeniously or violently extri-

cated. The element of self-parody is rather clumsily self-conscious. ("Let's get back to the gratuitous sex and violence," exclaims "Q"). The touches of sardonic topicality are better: the boffin "Q" has exhaled; his laboratory for what looks like a bicycle repair shop and bewails the cut-back of Government funding for his espionage devices.

There is a new element too of movie-buff references: the evil Patience (Barbara Carrera) is based on or any of the later great comedians, rose less from the inherent comedy of the action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own indestructible elegance and style. He was a grotesque he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an occasional tumble in a lake or soiling with a hose) in silk hat, frock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swaggy cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall for either his lady friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection, or

he was forced to desperate measures to avoid large and jealous husbands. The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their times. He revealed a distinctive camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, *Le Bonheur d'un pauvre homme*, he managed as he teeters and tumbles on his skates, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn out his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations, sets, props, were at hand: the Paris streets, Berlin squares and a Madrid corridor when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.

The poles of Linder's creation were the visual reality that came from his habit of using locations in preference to the studio, and the surrealities of his comic imagination. Normally inanimate objects like shoes will develop erotic lives of their own or Linder will launch into nightmares of being discovered taking a bath in public, or engaging in deadly combat with indomitable flypapers. How could such a supreme comic talent come to be forgotten? He was a victim of history. At the moment that Chaplin emerged to eclipse the rest, Linder's career was abruptly halted by the First World War. After it, badly injured both physically and psychologically, he found it hard to rebuild his career. Two adventures in Hollywood production were less than successful. Back in France his feature career was spasmodic. Eventually he could bear no more. On October 30, 1923, apparently in a suicide pact, he and his 20-year-old wife died in a Paris hotel. In the room with them was their baby daughter, Maud Max Linder, who has spent her adult life working to restore the recognition her father deserves. Channel 4, which owes so much for our visual education, plans to show *The Man in the Silk Hat*, her latest and finest tribute, in the near future.

Dance

Wyla Tharp

Sadler's Wells

Talk about jet-setting: last week Wyla Tharp's company was evading in Rome, while the Baryshnikov Ballet Theatre with *Sinatra Suite* in Washington. Now Tharp and her dancers are at Sadler's Wells, where *Nine Sinatra Songs* (which was the starting point of the new Sinatra ballet) was the big hit of Wednesday night's opening. The ballet also included another world premiere in quite a different mode, *Teknoman*, and for starters *Sue's Leg*, danced to songs by Fats Waller.

That was a particularly apt start because his way with a song is very much Tharp's way with a dance. They take something standard and give it an individual twist so that it comes up looking quite different. In *Sue's Leg*, the dance style in related to disco dancing, but it would be an unusual disco that attracted dancers with the flair and personality of Jennifer Wayne, Tom Rawe and Raymond Kurshals, not to mention Tharp herself.

Besides which, there is the point that within the deceptively casual ease of it all you actually get bits of tap, vaudeville and other skills thrown in. Then for *Teknoman*, to that composer's *Concerto in E major* for flute, oboe d'amore and

violin, suddenly Tharp goes all balletic. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant *deshabille* (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions.

Teknoman is all delicacy and playfulness; *Nine Sinatra Songs* is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of three handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, cunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one climax to another and how can you miss when everyone comes back, again to "My Way".

The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered marvellous old movies had come to life.

John Percival

Concerts

Vienna PO/Mehta

Barbican

This year's homage to Webern, focused in the Olivetti International Webern Cycle, was caught up in Wednesday's closing concert in one of the most boldly-etched Janus faces of all, Schoenberg's *Pelleas and Melisande*.

The work, which was first performed in the year in which Schoenberg began to teach Webern, and which inspired his own *Pelleas*, was an enthralling choice for finale, and all the more so for the Vienna Philharmonic's vital and intensely committed performance.

Zubin Mehta's own evident excitement in the work showed, as it should, in his recognition that there was life set in motion by the rhythms of color itself. If the performance has any weakness it was, indeed, in the sometimes oversharp definition of orchestral counterpoint in narrative which is never quite so explicit as it may seem.

But time and again one had to wonder at moments such as when the oboe, as Melisande, feels its way through the celli, haunted by the spectre of Gollaud's horn. Or at the playful seduction of the violins by the flute; at the strange menacing either flute, solo cello and harp; at the vicious sense of self-perpetuation in which the entire orchestra is taken up, for the last time in Schoenberg.

crucial in the 13 years since his suicide. *Monologe* might seem an ironic title for music engaging two performers, but the piece is very much a soliloquy by the composer, in which he sets the creatures of his own imagination against those of other composers from Bach to Messiaen, and against the awful consequences of imagination gone dead: massive splashes of clusters and growling in the deep bass.

Smalley's majestic, spacious and vibrant study in harmony, now happily available on record (Auracae Auzac 1006), gave the concert a richly rewarding second half.

Paul Griffiths

Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Accardo

Festival Hall

Founded in 1981, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is an international body with many British-looking names. On Wednesday evening it showed itself to be an ensemble of very high calibre, and in the opening Andante of Mozart's *Divertimento*, K137, the strings produced a tone that was beautifully smooth and light but also acutely expressive. They were acutely responsive as well to Salvatore Accardo's batonless direction.

The bounding central movement entailed no loss of refinement: in fact the nuances were almost as detailed. Several dynamic levels were clearly

Hilary Finch

defined in the finale, but one could have done with a clearer differentiation of tempo between these last two movements. The composer's directions - Allegro di molto and Allegro assai - are not of maximum helpfulness.

For Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, K364, Mr Accardo continued as director while taking up not his expected violin but the viola. The violin soloist was Iona Brown. An opening tutti showed that modest woodwind and brass additions made little difference to the sharpness of the CoE's ensemble. And these players were full of well-directed energy in the purely orchestral passages of the later movements.

Both soloists were at first rather disappointing, and did not project their phrases at all convincingly. In time they merged into the foreground, however, and gave a very fine account of the first movement's cadenza. The central Andante was far more consistent, and the soloists' was a beautiful conversation indeed. Though always considerable, their expressive intensity was varied with much discretion.

We finally heard Mr Accardo's masterly violin playing in Mozart's rather lengthy "Hafner" Serenade, K250, which he again conducted. He proved to be stylish in both roles, and shaped the adventurous development section of the first movement with considerable insight. And soon afterwards there was some nearly sublime solo violin playing.

Max Harrison

Television

Firing line

To those who watched Monday's *Horizon*, in which FBI marksmen learnt gleefully to hit the "centre mass" between their targets' armpits, last night's TV Eye (ITV) will have seemed endearingly homespun. "Where's that first live round?" an officer asked a volunteer hoping to join the 5,000 authorized shots in the Metropolitan Police's short and snappy TV eye. The round was not where it should have been. "Oh my God!" said the officer, with a mock-desperate laugh.

Selection methods for this elite group were, according to one new entrant, inevitably "a bit and miss affair". Well, yes, and so. The programme had begun with a convincingly wet and confused re-enactment of the shooting of Stephen Waldorf, who was seen coaching the actors in their nasty, short and brutish parts. "We were frightened," said one of the actor-politicians, explaining his near-fatal mistake. One of Scotland Yard's top men indicated that psychological testing would soon form part of their selection procedures; a retired superintendent, from Yorkshire suggested that training courses should have such success built into them as would "make a man break if he's going to".

Mr Waldorf, who made a personal appearance at the critics' preview, described the reconstruction as a "very fair portrayal of what had happened to him, and added that the dramatization had helped him get something out of his system. No reviewer could argue with that.

Guns were much in evidence in Channel 4's *A Flame to the Phoenix* (surely phoenixes provide their own flames?) as actor, ex-cousin-dressed Polish aristocrats, disappointed by some poor but honest Polish profits, waited for the 1939 war clouds to burst over their heads. There were also some exquisitely-dressed English aristocrats at the country house where the events unfolded, though as everyone spoke with exquisite Oxford accents, and as all the young men seemed to have the same sort of face, it was hard to tell who was who.

Heel-clicking heroism with a basis in historical truth is an infallibly effective recipe, so this *Flame* on Four was in little danger from the off-button, but it was appallingly cheapened in its final frames. As handsome Florina died bravely in the saddle we flashed back to his teenage cousin's words about her lost virginity, an unlikely tale when first told, and grotesquely inappropriate now. Vulgarly, like murder, will out.

Today's *History* (Channel 4) took an interesting if over-diffuse look at changing notions of "childhood", from miniature adult to wage-slave to (increasingly) now a substitute for immortality. It made an excellent commercial for the Christmas issue of *History Today*.

Michael Church

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Sex, sadism and . . . shrewdness

Actor Sean Connery is best known for his role as James Bond, Ian Fleming's suave, cool secret agent. But the Bond image is a far cry from the star's early life in an Edinburgh tenement. Duncan Fallowell talks to Connery as his new Bond film opens in Britain

This interview is short and fast, bright and early in the George V Suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. Sean Connery is wearing a green Bahamas Golf Club sweater. The Bahamas and Marbella are alternately "home". But Mr Connery is a shrewd Scot - the legal address is Monte Carlo.

What's his next film going to be? "I've no idea. I've acquired a whole batch of stuff I want to read. I haven't read anything in a long time. I've been doing things like 30-hour flights from Australia. You can't concentrate if you do things like that." Who's his favourite actor? "Unfortunately he died. Sir Ralph Richardson." Actress? "Um . . . I adore Katherine Hepburn."

Nothing very idiosyncratic so far. Connery conveys a tremendous impression of reliability both as man and star. His impact is larger than life. Or is it less than life, this giant certainty unencumbered by neurosis, this temperament whose most exotic obsession is golf?

What are his weaknesses as an individual? "The real skill in dealing with major problems in relationships is to be able to know something about someone. You know something about a producer, say. To know it so that it doesn't get in the way of the main issue, that kind of detachment, I find it awfully difficult."

Well, here's an American question connected with that: has being famous made him a nicer person?

"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone. If I have any religion or philosophy it's that I'd rather leave the place at least the same, if not better, having been here. And I have no desire to treat people any other way than I would like to be treated myself."

The Connery Code is a pretty strict one but, honed in a northern climate, it comes naturally to him. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't like bunglers or smart alecs or inefficiency of any kind. He goes straight from the film set to the golf course to the marital bed with hardly any deviations en route except, perhaps, for a sensible meal. But he isn't a cold person, at least not with strangers, so what's his idea of a good party?

"No more than six or eight people. Oh, that's not always true - we had a very good party, more or less by accident, when we were filming in London and I had an apartment in Lennox Gardens, just behind Harrods there. I just decided to have a few people round and it coincided with people coming into town - Michael



Sean Connery: "I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone" (Photograph by Brian Harris)

was coming in - Michael and Shkira . . . yes, Caine. Roger was there - Roger Moore, that is - and Albert Finney and Diana Quick - and James Hunt and his dog Oscar - and Jackie - Jackie Stewart, with his wife, and Barbara was there with the guy she's now married to, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Medwin - none of us had seen each other for a wee while and it went on and on, nobody wanted to go. It was marvellous. That's what a party's all about - timing. Otherwise I like a dinner where there's at least two people who don't quite get on."

When was the last time you were drunk?

The Connery Code, honed in a northern climate

"Oh, just the other night actually. I like Scotch. I'm going back a bit to beer now, too."

How many children do you have? The files give different numbers. "That's because I inherited some. When I married Diane Cilento she already had a daughter. Then we had Jason, who's my only child." Divorced 1973. "My present wife has from a previous marriage two sons and a daughter, and the daughter has two daughters." He married Micheline in 1976. She is Moroccan. They met at a golf tournament in Mohamadia, Morocco. Connery won the men's title, she the women's.

Have you enjoyed being a father?

"Yes. One could have been better. Coming late to a choice of career, not marrying until late, the showbusiness lifestyle, the need for domestic help, got in the way somewhat."

Your own home as a child - was it warm and welcoming?

"No. It was very austere. So one really spent as much time as possible out in the streets."

Connery is an intelligent man, but one drawn in broad, simple strokes with any oddities ruthlessly edited out as soon as he was sufficiently rich and famous to become uncompromisingly non-eccentric. But the granite line begins early, in 1930 when he was born into a poor Edinburgh household and given the name Thomas: father a lorry driver, mother a charlady, his cot a wardrobe drawer, his bedroom later the kitchen, tin baths in front of the fire, a lavatory shared by 12 families on the tenement staircase.

At nine he started work, delivering milk before school. At 13 he left school and became a full-time milkman. At 17 he went into the Royal Navy - discharged three years later with ulcers. Subsequent jobs included lorry driver, cement mixer, bricklayer, steel bender, coffin polisher.

Then more curious and narcissistic influences came into play. He became a lifeguard at a swimming pool, took up body building, became an artist's model where he learned to relax while displaying himself - excellent training for a star whose key quality would always be physical presence. Connery represented Scotland in a Mr Universe competition (bronze medal) in London, where a friend playing in the musical *South Pacific* said there was a vacancy in the chorus. On impulse Connery applied and got it. He decided to become an actor.

Although Tom became Sean in 1951, stardom wasn't as immediate. His first break was in a television play in 1956 - a 20th Century Fox contract and string of B films followed. "I'll do anything I can get my hands on," he said to Patricia Lewis in her "Confidentially" column in the *New Chronicle* in 1957. What he describes as the "prostitution phase" of his life ended in 1962 with the appearance of the first Bond, *Dr No*.

If he was a lad in Edinburgh now,

unemployed, no future, what would he do?

"It's desperate, I know. I've been up there. As you'll note, I was able to get into the work ethic very early. What happens now, I don't know."

Now for a few questions about sex. Connery is known to resent too-direct questions about his personal life, but he doesn't flinch. First, how did he discover the facts of life?

"Oh well, where I was born they were all messing around from the ages of seven and eight onwards in this big tenement building. It was impossible not to discover the facts of life. And there's a great puritan streak in Scotland which of course immediately intrigued the children - you wanted to know all about what was so terrible."

Can you remember your first experience of a woman?

"The decisive encounter was - we used to have air-raid shelters underground because the war was still on, I expect they're all filled in now - and I was walking along and was followed by an ATS woman and I was what, 14 years old I suppose, just left school. We ended up down in the air-raid shelters. A lot of things started in those shelters. This one was full of water, I remember, with planks and duckboards to walk on."

In a 1961 interview he said: "I don't

I have a chance to play out the fantasies

think there's anything very wrong about hitting a woman. I don't, though, recommend hitting a woman the way you hit a man." Would he still go along with that?

"Oh, yes, I still go along with that." Generally speaking, would you call yourself a romantic? James Bond definitely is. In fact it is probably Bond's most amiable characteristic.

"No, I'm not."

He is a very masculine man - what is feminine in his character? For the first time the composure shudders. A glance of suspicion shoots out the side of his face, that famous suspicion which has battled journalists and producers alike, always on guard against being exploited, taken for a ride, used. He still attacks the exploiters, rather pointlessly since he's as rich as any. It is the puritanism again, informed by a slightly left wing sympathy. But actors are made to be used and, if they want to be stars, exploitation of their qualities is essential.

"I don't know. I'm not very good at reading my feminine side. You'll probably have to ask my wife . . . I don't see myself as macho as the image. It's something that got built up."

One of the specific mistakes in *Never Say Never Again* is to put Connery into a toupée again. It ages him terribly. He looks much better without it. What's good about getting older?

"I'll can't think of too many things, actually. A Muslim Moroccan friend of my wife's says the thing to do is to acquire wisdom, that the real pleasure of getting older is to become wiser. I have flashes of what I take to be wisdom, but on the whole I don't seem to learn a great deal. I went through that phase of the *I Ching*, Ouspensky's *In Search of The Miraculous*, Gurdjieff, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, you know. At the end of the day, it's not dissimilar to what's in the Bible."

Life's been good to him, on the whole. Has he had to pay a price, has he known any extreme unhappiness?

"No, I think the job has given me a chance to play out the fantasies, the kind of stuff which might well otherwise build up inside. When I was young I was very anxious and tense, though. My ulcers started at 16. But acting released this. I never want to go back to that again."

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moreover...
Miles Kingston

The Last Post at Christmas

Wayside Pulpit, by the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Chaplain to the TUC

I read the other day in the paper that it was already too late to send Christmas cards to people beginning with "Z" in Buenos Aires.

Maybe those weren't the exact details. But that was the general idea.

And it made me very sad.

Somewhere in an Argentine suburb sits someone called Alberto Zarzuela (let us say) who is condemned to receive no Christmas cards from us in Britain. A printer, perhaps, whose livelihood is threatened by the draconian laws enacted by the late military junta. How do we feel about this?

I know how I feel.

I feel that draconian is a funny word. People use it all the time without knowing what it means. I know I do. So today I am going to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, well, what do you know? Draco is the name of a faint constellation in the sky. So that is what it comes from.

No, hold on. Draco was also the name of an Athenian lawgiver who made almost everything punishable by death. So draconian law, they say, is "harsh".

I'll say.

I had no idea that it was punishable by death to form a closed shop of printers. No wonder our lads are out in force at Warrington. No wonder Alberto Zarzuela is feeling a bit apprehensive in sunny Argentina. Every Christmas card he receives is printed by a man who may have been taken out and shot by the time he gets it.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Little did William Caxton think when he first used moveable type that his successors would be flocking to Warrington to safeguard their very lives. If he had known, do you think he would have joined them?

I doubt it.

In those days Warrington was but a tiny hamlet between Macclesfield and Liverpool, neither of which existed. Will Caxton and his merry band of flying pickets would have looked right twitting descending on three cottages and shouting "Reinstate ye Warrington alder!" I doubt that there were six in Warrington to reinstate.

And yet the principle is absolutely correct. Jesus says in the Bible (TUC version): "Blessed are the solid, for they shall get their just demands. Behold, I have been to my executive, and my executive is with me on this one."

What did He mean by this?

I think He meant that Alberto Zarzuela is depending on every one of us to stick by him this Christmas tide, to send him Christmas cards even if they arrive late. Behold, there were printers in the field to whom the angel appeared saying, Have you got my card sheet ready yet? And they made reply saying, This is our busiest period, you will have to wait like everyone else. For unto us a son is born (2:6), down the right wing and scored and bring to the table piping hot (continued page 67). Late result: Wrexham 0, Hymn 564.

I wonder what this means?

Blow me if I know.

And yet one thing I do know, because I have just looked it up in my Spanish dictionary, Zarzuela means "musical drama". Pantomime, perhaps? Do they also at this season have in Buenos Aires an extended run of "Ali Baba y los cuarenta ladrones"? Or "Ricardo Whittington", going on till March 3, if the new government lasts that long?

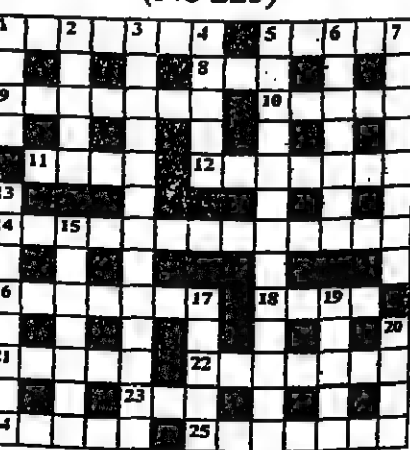
Impossible to tell. So let us, at this time of year, turn our thoughts finally to a stable in Bethlehem, where inside the oxen and ass are warm and comfortable, and outside a line of freezing photographers waits in the cold. It's a hard life being a press photographer, waiting for something that may never happen, peering through frozen keyholes and breaking down doors with their bare hands.

I believe the Italians call them paparazzi.

I wonder why?

Unfortunately, I haven't got an Italian dictionary.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 225)



- ACROSS
- Deftly (7)
 - Colourless body fluid (5)
 - Egg cells (3)
 - Confound (7)
 - Employees' documents (5)
 - Anti aircraft fire (4)
 - Sea lavender (7)
 - Rig dumper (6,7)
 - Unswelled (7)
 - Smack (4)
 - Birds' resting place (5)
 - Ice hockey start (4,3)
 - Ingress (3)
 - Speak (5)
 - Greeter (7)
- DOWN
- Counterpart (4)
 - Constrain (5)
 - Finger weapon (7,6)
 - Exultant birds (5)
 - Idle (13)
 - Marx follower (7)
 - Lu (8)
 - Elaborate dress (3)
 - Prevent from eating (4,3)
 - Lifts (5)
 - Assume (5)
 - From a distance (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 224
- ACROSS: 1 Pastor 5 Blotch 8 ETA 9 Unhappy 10 Safari 11 Plus 12 Occult 14 Code of conduct 17 Postpone 19 Gibe 21 Coping 23 Signal 24 Acc 25 Bodkin 26 Exempt
- DOWN: 2 Annual 3 Transient 4 Reproof 5 Basic 6 Off 7 Chronic 13 Pedagogy 15 Oloroso 16 Oversee 18 Organ 20 Bleep 22 Elk

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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- Peacock parade: The see-and-be-seen night club crowd
 - Travel: For ever England in California; and aloha, Hawaii
 - Family Money: What's worth buying in France
 - Sport: Racing - SGB Chase at Ascot; Swimming - European Cup in Ankara
 - Values: Investment in presents with a future; and table decorations with flair
- PLUS: News from home and abroad; Gardening; Video review; Wines for the big day; Country Diary on the agrishusiness of East Angles; Bridge; Chess; Family Life with a checklist for Christmas; a critical guide to the arts; Collecting on modelling in wax; Tommy Trinder's return

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Keeping alive the pioneering spirit

In a timely antidote to recent ballyhoo surrounding polar expeditions, two young Britons are putting the finishing touches to an ambitious plan by which they will become the first men to haul a sledge unaided to the South Pole. It is not, they say, an expedition of discovery so much as one of rediscovery: indeed, they have given it the title "In the Footsteps of Scott".

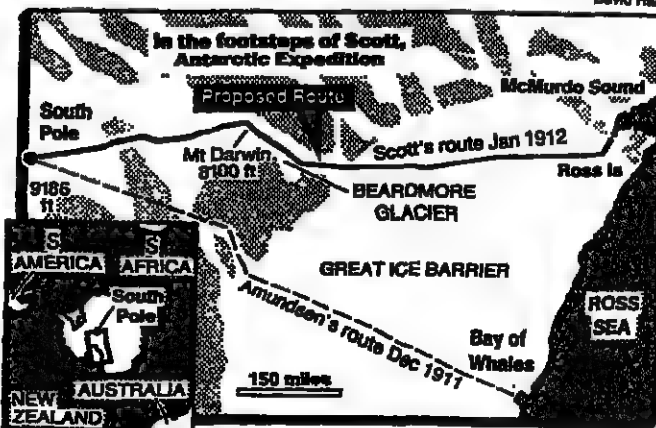
Robert Swan, aged 27, and Roger Mear, 32, plan to set out for the Pole in October, 1985. By a quirk of fate, a French expedition using dogs will repeat Amundsen's journey at the same time. The celebrated race to the Pole of 1911 between Scott and Amundsen will therefore, in a way, be re-enacted.

The men's motivation is refreshing. Swan, the leader, emphasizes their deep respect both for the past and for the fragile Antarctic environment. They have disdained travel by vehicle or resupply by air-drop, which would have rendered the journey unremarkable: when they reach their destination, however, they will be lifted out on one of the regular flights from the US base at the Pole.

Committed conservationists, they wish to draw attention to Antarctica's great assets: its isolation and beauty. "I could not go to the Pole on a conservation ticket sitting on a machine," Swan says. "Let's go back and achieve a journey that gives us and others a sense of the old spirit of polar exploration."

To the suggestion that they will only be completing half of Scott's journey, and the easier half at that, Swan explains that Scott had taken support parties to within 170 miles of the Pole: they will take none. This will make their loads heavier, a brutal 300lbs per man at the start, reducing by 5lbs a day as food and fuel are consumed.

As it is, they will start with full sledges to cross the first 400



A 75-day journey in the footsteps of Captain Scott

miles of relatively flat barrier. When they reach the foot of the Beardmore glacier, loads will still be a daunting 200lbs. Ten days of herculean and dangerous effort should get them up the glacier and on to the polar plateau, where 350 miles will separate them from the Pole. They plan to take 75 days in all. It is fascinating to compare the changes wrought by the passage of 74 years. I asked Swan what psychological advantages he had over his famous predecessor. "We now have no fear of curves," he replied. "Neither do we fear isolation."

Scurvy was the bane of expeditions until vitamins were discovered just after Scott's time. General nutrition has also much improved. For instance, Scott's daily ration, mainly of pemmican and biscuits, weighed 2lbs 3ozs and gave 4,430 calories. Swan's will weigh 1lb 15ozs to produce 5,271 calories.

The radio has banished much of the anxiety of isolation. The pioneers made their decisions and their lives then depended on their sound judgment. Swan, on the insistence of the Americans who would be responsible for search and rescue, will take a radio. He can



Swan: into the past about for help and someone will hear.

How do physical abilities compare, then and now? Scott's men, no doubt typical of their generation, were a hardy bunch but made no systematic effort to keep fit and were selected more for their all-round suitability and qualifications than for their purely physical attributes. Swan is a marathon runner while Mear is the sort of tough mountaineer labelled a "hard man": both maintain a rigorous routine of fitness training and both have previous Antarctic experience.

Technology has given us equipment - that is lighter, Polar medal.

stronger and better. Scott's reindeer-skin sleeping bag weighed 15lbs and iced up dangerously. The modern down-filled bag is warmer and weighs about 6lbs. Scott took an 11lbs pick axe. Swan will have a telescopic ski pole/ice axe weighing 3lbs. And this story is repeated with every item of equipment.

Mountaineers consider a pair of men to be at a hazard on a glacier because if one falls into a crevasse the other cannot physically haul him out. Swan and Mear will be at particular risk on the fearsome Beardmore glacier. Crevasse rescue techniques have much improved, however, and they have some ingenious braking devices on their sledges to ensure that if one man falls in, the other should not be dragged down also.

To keep costs down, the expedition will be conveyed to and from Antarctica by an Australian-manned yacht. Even so, the project will cost some £324,000 - a modest budget compared, for instance, with the £4m for the Fionnes Trans-Globe spectacular. In the course of the expedition the yacht will circumnavigate the globe and it will be sold on completion to reduce the budget. There will be a total of seven expedition members in addition to the yacht's crew.

Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, is the expedition's patron. He particularly welcomes the way in which it will draw attention to the now urgent problem of the conservation of Antarctica. I suspect that he will also welcome the attitude of respect for his father that the venture reflects, in contrast to the hatchet job done on his reputation by the recent book *Scott and Amundsen*.

Mike Banks

The author is an explorer and mountaineer and holder of the Polar medal.

FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Long time on short list

I have just completed the current school headship circuit. By the end I had accepted my status as the statutory woman on a short list, or indeed often on the long list. The comments of male colleagues reveal a marked enthusiasm for the presence of females in the management team, combined with a despair at the paucity and relative lack of qualifications of such applicants.

In January 1982 there were 3,307 male secondary heads in maintained schools in England. The figures are undisputed. In today's social climate this is serious. First, current correspondence suggests a growing concern at the lack of outstanding applicants for top educational jobs; in which case artificial barriers hindering more than 50 per cent of teaching staff are folly. Second, it is democratic or unacceptable to hinder the access of one particular group to top posts on entirely irrelevant grounds. Third, the hidden influence of the institutional power structure on the present generation of students has serious connotations. Fourth, changing social conventions mean that many women will be able to break breadwinners and therefore should certainly have fair access to more senior positions.

The reasons for this disparity in achievement are both practical and psychological. The overwhelming disadvantage of the majority of women is their immobility. Most are married and cannot leave their husbands' area of work. The clogging up of the promotional ladder, consequent on declining rolls, has meant that movement is almost essential for promotion. The effect of motherhood on career prospects is seriously underestimated, despite lip service to its value as an experience. The physical effects of childbirth are often not emphasized. We suffer the worst maternity provisions in Western Europe, except for the Irish Republic. There is no guarantee of part-time work during the early years of motherhood, followed by a return to full-time employment. Instead, with the present job crisis, teachers must hang grimly on to their full-time posts or face long term unemployment. There are formidable child care obstacles.

My experience of commuting husbands in the South-east made me realize that a daily absence of 12 hours was normal. Professional promotion depends not only on the efficiency of one's teaching, but also on wider educational contributions, such as examinations, research, higher activity, part-time study, higher degrees and in-service training courses. Their combination with a full-time job, domestic responsibility and finally motherhood is formidable indeed.

Some would argue that the psychological barriers were even more important. The basic problem is women's perception of themselves and their abilities. For four years, as vice-principal I was the sole female member of senior and middle management in a sixth-form college. All the heads of department - apart from Home Economics - were male. The stress was considerable.

What do we do? First, every LEA should circulate the relevant statistics. There is nothing like hard fact in fighting any case. Second, those shortlisting for any senior appointment (Scale III onwards) should give clearly formulated reasons for an entirely male shortlist. Third, every LEA should mount in-service training sessions - organized by women for the female teachers. Fourth, requirements are more fundamental and include changes in our outdated maternity provisions and the Victorian assumptions of our tax and benefit laws.

For years we have accepted the philosophy that deprivation stemming from class and race must be rectified by positive action. Even the traditionally liberal minded jib at a similar stance on sex.

Geraldine Evans
The author is principal of King George V College, Southampton.

Helen Mason on the rivalry over artists' versions of Shakespeare

When *Macbeth* in cartoon strip form was introduced to an astounded public last year there were many, including scholars, purists, and publishers who believed there was no market for such an outrageous product. They were all wrong. Not only is there a market, but also there is considerable rivalry to corner it. This month, with *Macbeth* still selling, there are two more cartoon books on sale.

The cartoon classics were the brainchild of artist Von, who has produced a version of *Romeo and Juliet* (pictured right) which has reached the book shops only days before a cartoon version of *Othello*. To the public, all three cartoons look like part of a series, with variations only in price. They are identical in shape and size and all use first folio texts. But in fact they come from different publishers.

Von's first illustrated play, *Macbeth*, was neglected for three years until it was spotted by Anne Tauté, who created Oval Projects in order to publish it. But Von's subsequent version of *Romeo and Juliet* was published by Michael Joseph. Oval Projects' second Shakespeare cartoon was drawn by Oscar Zarate.

Both publishers intend to produce more plays and such rivalry must amaze all who doubted that comic book Shakespeare was a commercial proposition.

Publishers who rejected *Macbeth* invariably asked: "Who is it aimed at?" Scholars would disdain the unsuitable format, they said, while comic book devotees would be dismayed by the full text. But *Macbeth* was bought by children as well as adults, and often by parents and teachers. It is a success.

If the race is taken the full length of all 37 plays, the odds are on Anne Tauté to win. She has more runners in the field. Michael Joseph intend to put all their money on Von, but Oval Projects will use a different artist for each play.

Von, who estimates it costs him £15,000 to produce the artwork for a play, started to sell the idea halfway through the recession. He took on a business partner in a venture calling for faith - it was three years before they sold *Macbeth*. Anne Tauté had faith. She saw the artwork in New York and mortgaged her house, sold



everything she could and formed a company, Oval Projects, to publish it.

The legal action which briefly and dramatically stopped the presses as *Macbeth* was being printed in Hongkong was the first public intimation of a rift between the two. Anne Tauté still cannot speak of the event without her voice rising in bewilderment. "I don't understand - I never will understand," she told me. "We were at the eleventh hour and I was in Hongkong when we got an injunction to stop printing."

Von, who recalls the scene with more laconic claims he and his partner sought the injunction because they were concerned about the quality of printing. He told me dismally last week that one motive for going to court was to force a meeting with Anne Tauté, with whom he said there had developed a communications problem. As the action is estimated by Anne Tauté to have cost him £30,000 it was a flamboyant gesture. Oval's defence cost £7,000, but it won.

Despite these lively disagreements Von took his second work, *Romeo and Juliet*, to Oval, which had an option on his next book. Anne Tauté turned it down.

She explained her decision to reject *Romeo and Juliet*. "It wasn't a patch on the first work. I said 'Look, it's not right. But would you like to do another crude, bloody one, for instance, take two years and do *Hamlet*'."

Romeo and Juliet, published by Michael Joseph, beat *Othello* to the

bookshops by a matter of days. *Othello* scores by being cheaper (£4.50 in soft cover against £4.95) and has the added advantage of an optional package, including BBC cassettes of the play starring Paul Scofield. Oval has *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night* in production and aims to keep three artists working at once. The pace is rather slower for Von, who is awaiting a contract to do *Midsummer Night's Dream* and hopes to follow that with *Hamlet*. Both publishers have an agreement not to overlap, but I asked Von if it irritated him to find himself in competition over cartoon Shakespeare.

"What irritates me are two things. That I am in competition, yes, with my own idea, although it is not that so much as that I feel it was so forcibly taken away from me. I think that is the real point. I would never have minded if the whole thing had been amicable. I never intended, after all, to do all 37 plays. I feel ten would be a nice round number to start with. And secondly it irritates me that I am grubbing around to do my next book, whereas Anne has a commitment for a series."

He believes the problem lies in his insistence on royalties as well as an advance for his work. Certainly he has a royalties contract for *Macbeth* and wanted one from Oval for *Romeo and Juliet*. It is also, however, understandable that Anne Tauté, whose troubles with Von are by no means over, might prefer to work with less litigious artists. Her

relationship with Oscar Zarate, who was paid a flat fee for *Othello*, was trouble-free. Von approaches Shakespeare with respect, affection and a rather scholarly tendency to pedantry. He owns the first folio edition from which the text for the plays was used.

Zarate, an Argentinian, has a gentle, diffident personality which no one who has seen his work would expect. His pictures suggest he sees the world as a menacing place, an atmosphere he has grafted on to his bald and sinister Venetian, his sly-lipped Iago and his foolishly vengeful Rodrigo. His work on *Othello* is an extension of the drawings of punks and skinheads in his studio.

At 41, he is ten years older than Von. The idea of a Spanish-speaking Argentinian producing an illustrated *Othello* had struck me as incongruous, but Zarate smiled and said: "We read Shakespeare in Argentina, you know. He does not belong only to the English."

Although Zarate had no difficulties with Oval Projects, his work on *Othello* was not devoid of trauma. When he was commissioned to do the play, the Falklands crisis was reaching its height and it affected him badly. "I became very paranoid. I was disgusted with the whole event, with both sides. When the war started I was dealing with the first act where Othello is called to the senate and has to go and repel a Turkish invasion of Cyprus." The parallels struck him forcibly. "I was very paralysed for a while. I was going from radio to television to

newspapers. Then to Shakespeare. I do not see Othello as a noble hero. I see him as a mercenary."

Zarate has no reservations about the value of cartoon Shakespeare. Curiously, at one time Von did. Illustrated Shakespeare is not new, although cartoons using the full text are. Von himself had a comic version as a child but had not, he told me, taken it seriously.

"To me," he said, "Shakespeare is the language and to abridge or colloquialize removes the essence. I got an enormous amount of pleasure out of Shakespeare, even as a 16-year-old."

Overcoming his instinctive mild snobbery about comics, he found the project artistically exciting and, like everyone else involved in publishing Shakespeare comics, claims a missionary zeal in bringing the Bard to the masses.

He also admits candidly to a reasonable expectation that the project might make him a lot of money. He was paid £15,000 in advance but claims it cost him a great deal to produce the work. "It hasn't made me rich. It's made me poor. I'm broke which is why I'm living here with friends." He is living in a grandly decaying house in Bath, all stripped wood and marvellous objects on the walls, one of them a painting of Von's. He believes that by now he should be receiving royalties for *Macbeth*, a claim to which Anne Tauté reacts with controlled exasperation.

"It's quite ludicrous. People who know nothing about publishing imagine it's all very quick money. An advance is an advance against royalties. If you give someone £15,000 before publication, it is £15,000 to be earned by royalties as they come in. Von gets statements which show him exactly what the situation is. He will get royalties when he has exceeded his advance."

The crucial question is, how many copies of *Macbeth* have been sold? One report stated that the English printing of 33,000 sold out in three months and in America, with a print run of 53,000, it is being reprinted. Von is very interested in these figures which he is trying to verify. Anne Tauté, however, says the first edition has not sold out in England, and says the American publishers are wishing they had not ordered so many.

Standing fastidiously back from these disagreements is Von's new editor, Philip Harrison at Michael Joseph, an English graduate whose first reaction to cartoon Shakespeare was lukewarm. She changed her mind, she said, when the American company which owns the rights showed her Von's work. "I think it is absolutely lovely," she said. "And I think there is no harm in having two publishers doing illustrated Shakespeare. Providing we don't overlap."

A help or a hindrance? What the critics say

"They're ghastly... terrible... dreadful," said the actor, Donald Sinden. "What really appals me is that for these prices people could get really good seats in a theatre to see the plays. Take Iago, from *Othello*, the play I know best because I have just played it. He is meant to disarm, the audience should trust him. This Iago, from page one onwards, is utterly villainous. As for the speeches, the verse, it is better laid out, dare I say it, in a Penguin edition. I think people who read comics would find it all very confusing."

Schoolchildren were all prepared to welcome the books, even flick through them, although none seized them to retire to a quiet corner. I sought a more profound view from the only A-level student I know who is an authority on Shakespeare. Matthew Fay is 17, comes from a family with theatrical enthusiasms stretching back to the Abbey theatre and has been a dedicated theatregoer since childhood.

He has seen much of Shakespeare, including *Othello* four or five times, and got an A grade at O-level in English literature. He used his own acid test on the cartoon plays by looking for specific soliloquies and speeches to see how they had been



Scenes from *Othello*, published by Oval Projects

treated, and found the layout unsympathetic.

"It's not in verse lines, so you do not get the idea of iambic pentameter. Where the verse does matter you have to dart from place to place. The pictures work best where there are few words and a lot of action, such as Cassio's drunk scene. I'd love to have had something like this in the third year, but it wouldn't have much value for anyone seriously studying a play."

He liked the look of *Romeo and Juliet*. "The pictures make a good attempt at continuity. I think this guy manages to make the drawings complement the play. The colours and pictures do have a dramatic tenor to them, and the pictures are more sensitive to the text."

The views of teachers vary with the abilities of the children they teach. David Lund, head of English at a public day-school for boys, was unhappy.

"If it is a way of bringing people to Shakespeare who might not otherwise read the plays, fine. And on the credit side, at least the text is intact. But there is more to say against than for. There is the problem of who is speaking and in what order, and a shortage of stage directions. When you are studying Shakespeare, as opposed to reading it, you need a glossary. I think this is pandering to a mentality which expects everything packaged in pop form."

"It certainly does not inspire respect for the word on a page. Anything that brings Shakespeare to people who might then go and see it in the theatre could break down the class difference in his popularity. But if interest ends with the cartoon play it isn't doing much good. It seems to me the young imagination can conjure up much more interesting picture than what is being offered here. Frankly, this is a travesty of what one is capable of in one's imagination."

This view contrasted sharply with that of a teacher, now head of English at a sixth-form centre, who taught until this year at a mixed ability school in a deprived area.

She said: "I welcome anything that makes Shakespeare more accessible. When I was dealing with third and fourth-year classes of girls who approached Shakespeare with reluctance, I used devices like this myself. I got them to put the story into cartoon form, report the plots as for a newspaper, and act them out."

I often found that overcoming initial reluctance, and that was needed. The layout of a play, any play, can be off-putting to anyone. And Shakespeare, with all those slabs of verse and archaic words, is particularly alien at first."

FIRST PERSON

Caroline Harper
My lesbian daughter

It is tough going for convention-bound, sensitive parents when offspring decides to "educate" them into the 1980s. If your young should show missionary zeal in your latter-day enlightenment, don't cut and run. Just brace yourself for shocks.

Two years ago my daughter, who lives in London, broke the news that she was "gay" (her terminology, not mine). The shock was seismic, stunning, and I found myself grieving for a daughter I thought I'd lost.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Today, from our disparate viewpoints and ways of life, we are closer than we ever were when she was a rebellious teenager, turning over new boyfriends and old motor cars with a panache that caught the eye of parents and police alike.

I am not pretending that it's all been plain sailing or that I am now reconciled to her way of life. We have both, separately, been through enough heartache to keep in overdrive during many a sleepless night. She, during the years, was trying to suppress her "unnatural" feelings, with near-disastrous effects on her health, both physical and mental. And I, during the painful time of seeking advice and information on bisexuality - at my daughter's suggestion - from friends and colleagues.

I thought I knew the underlying reason for it, of course: the divorce darkening her teenage years. We, her parents, must share the blame for her perversion - if that's what it was.

Friends were reassuring on this point, and unshocked. But then, it wasn't their daughter, was it? Any imbalance of male and female genes is from birth, I was told; although it's possible for a traumatic experience to act as catalyst and tip the fine balance one way or the other. It could be a temporary phase in her life that she would discard "when the right man comes along". (It was a man said that!) And if it wasn't temporary, the consensus was "well, does it really matter, as long as she is happy and fulfilled?"

I went up to town to see her. We talked as we have never talked before; in the street, over a meal, between acts of a play - as much woman to woman as mother to daughter. I learned how her new sexual freedom had helped her to think and express herself more clearly than she had been able to for years. Even if I didn't agree with her new life, shouldn't I be grateful for that?

Now, two years later, she has given up her job and her career to become a "mature" student. She is surviving on her grant in one of London's deprived areas, picking up banners left, right and centre, mainly left, and, with a women's group, campaigning for a prostitutes' union.

When she does put pen to paper to keep tutors and parents happy, she undermines the English language with socio-feminist jargon, incensing us all. (She happens to be reading English for her degree.)

We meet regularly and she fills me in on life - the stuff of which headlines are made - as she sees it. As I see it, it is highly uncomfortable, slanted, and inevitably refracted through the feminist prism. I still react like litmus paper to her more extreme theories, such as planned single-parenthood for women who don't want a man about the house, and suspect she would be equally shocked if I did otherwise.

There is no cosy ending to this story perhaps there never will be. But I have still a daughter, and a relationship with her, that I care deeply about. And I have still a lot to learn.

Casualties of the cold

Legend has it that the saintly King Wenoclas peered divine intervention to preserve the circulation in his feet as he braved the ice and snow; for those who have cardiovascular problems, but do not expect a miracle, a few simple precautions will reduce their chance of becoming one of the many casualties of cold weather.

Doctors find that trouble often arises as the patient prepares to go to work, or goes to bed. It is foolhardy for a man with a poor coronary circulation to leave the warmth of his house for the hard, unaccustomed labour of clearing snow in freezing conditions, and the circulatory strain is increased if he then drives to work in a car colder than the household refrigerator. It is the car that must stand outside, the engine and heater should be turned on before it is time to leave.

Serious exercise, including sawing logs and wood-chopping, are better avoided in very cold weather, but enough fuel must be brought in during the day so that the warmth of evening fire need not be left for a chilly trip to the coal shed.

Bedrooms should be heated, bedroom windows kept closed, and beds warmed so that the circulation does not have to withstand ice cold sheets.

Invitro innovation

An improvement in the technique for invitro fertilization (test tube babies) has been introduced at Kings College Hospital will, by being safer and very much cheaper, enable for more women with blocked fallopian tubes to have babies. Two years ago Professor Stuart Campbell, head of a method of collecting eggs from the human ovary.

It is this idea which has been developed by Professor Campbell and his team so that the procedure can be done as an outpatient. No anaesthetics are needed; and as no hospital beds or operating theatres are used, costs are substantially reduced.

The patient's ovaries are first stimulated by giving a hormone, FSH. Later a second hormone, HCG, precipitates ovulation; exactly 35 hours after this hormone has been given a woman is ready to have three or four eggs aspirated from her ovary. She is seen in a sterile room where, under ultrasound surveillance, a needle is guided through the abdominal wall and bladder to the egg. Fifty hours later the woman returns, again as an outpatient, to have the fertilized eggs, embryos, implanted in her uterus.

The method is simple, safe and quick; it has not produced any side effects, other than an occasional trace of blood in the first specimen of urine passed after the eggs have been collected. It does of necessity rely upon a highly trained team.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poultry poison

However distressing the emotional trial which the heads of state may have had to bear at the European Community Summit in Athens, they can not have been more trying than the physical problems they had to overcome at the meeting two years ago when over 300 people were afflicted with food poisoning. This incident has been used to illustrate the perils of institutional cooking and the need for care when cooking the Christmas dinner.

Poultry is notorious for spreading gastrointestinal infections, particularly salmonella and campylobacter, for however careful the butcher, the bird is likely to be contaminated by spilt intestinal contents.

It is important that frozen poultry is completely thawed before cooking and that uncooked meat of whatever sort is not put in the same refrigerator as cooked food, or allowed to come in contact with it. Hands and kitchen utensils should be washed thoroughly after handling meat or poultry.

Several attacks of food poisoning have been traced to the habit of carving on the kitchen chopping board rather than in the dining room.

Knee surgery

This month the first of this year's skiers will hobble along to their doctors complaining that their knees click, lock, or are just swollen and painful; they will join the injured from the football field already on a waiting list for meniscotomy, the operation for removal of the whole damaged cartilage.

A recent review questions whether the development of the arthroscope, now renders this operation obsolete for most cases. Although surgeons have, since the First World War, been able to look into the knee joint with an arthroscope, it has only become established as a diagnostic procedure in the last 20 years, and only within the last decade have advances in instrument design enabled surgeons to develop techniques of operating on the cartilage under direct vision.

Once these very difficult techniques have been mastered, a skilled surgeon is usually able to achieve a better result by removing only the damaged portion of the cartilage. He can do this through the comparatively small incision needed for the passage of his instruments rather than by opening up the whole joint.

The new operation can be done in a day surgical unit.

Beating asthma

As more women return to work after childbirth, the date of delivery becomes of economic as well as social importance. But however assiduously couples study calendars, charts, and diaries, the timing of conception remains difficult so that babies are still apt to be born before the firm's busiest time.

A report suggests that there are rather better reasons for careful planning of birthdays than the firm's holiday schedule or a misplaced belief in horoscopes. The season of a baby's birth can have a marked effect on its chances of developing a common form of allergic asthma due to a sensitivity to housemites.

The study shows that children born in the summer and autumn are more likely to suffer from allergic diseases due to housemites, one of the commoner causes of asthmatic wheezing and nasal snuffling problems which, once initiated, may persist throughout life.

Even in the cleanest house mites are abundant between May and September, since babies are more easily sensitized to an allergy in the first six months of life than at other ages, parents with a strong family history of allergy might be wise to plan for a winter or spring child.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

TALKBACK

Backing the Bill

From Julia Newberger, 36 Orlando Road, London SW4. One important section was omitted from my article on the Sex Equality Bill (Comment, Friday Page, December 9), which led to an incorrect expression of my views. Although in the context of the Bill itself I thought homosexuals should not have been included, I am convinced that there should be anti-discrimination legislation which would tackle the needs of a group which suffers from considerable prejudice and disadvantage.

The Sex Equality Bill's failure points yet again to the urgent need for a Bill of Rights which would at the very least incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights.

Suttee purpose

From Elizabeth Sullivan, Benton Castle, Milford Haven, Dyfed. When I was a child in India 60 years ago the practice of Suttee was still prevalent, despite the edict of the British Raj that it was unlawful.

Perhaps, with regard to the article on widows, (Monday Page, December 12) and bearing in mind the status of these ladies in an Indian household, this practice was not as barbaric as the western mind thought. Apart from being in the emotional state that death provokes, they were generally heavily drugged before throwing themselves onto the flames.

Anyone mean enough to throw a party without Smirnoff will have fun throwing this streamer.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WE MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS

By "freezing" the budget rebates to Britain and Germany which were agreed at Stuttgart in June, the European Parliament hopes to put pressure on the Council of Ministers to agree on lasting solutions to the crisis now afflicting the European Community. The Parliament has stopped short of rejecting the budget outright but it has taken action which it hopes will concentrate the minds of member governments and force them to come to terms in the next three months. The intention may be meritorious but the means adopted are neither constructive nor coherent enough for their declared purpose.

The rebate of 750 million ecu (£457 million) due to Britain in 1984 against its over-heavy contributions to the Community's resources in 1983 has been put into what is called the reserve chapter of the Budget. The normal use of the reserve is to receive and hold money in certain cases until such time as the policies for which the money is intended are adopted. It is, in other words, a kind of hypothetical contingency reserve, and when the intended policies are fulfilled, the money is transferred out of it.

In the present instance, a procedure which is part of normal Community financial arrangements is being misused as a political weapon. The Parliament is demanding final decisions on the Community's need to increase its own revenue from member-states, on Britain's and Germany's unfairly high

contributions, to these resources, and on agricultural spending. Given such solutions by the end of March, it will release the money. It is not altogether clear whether the money would be released whatever the details of such an agreement, but the presumption is that, above all else, it wants an agreement of some sort by that date, and one that is durable and comprehensive.

This claim to be seeking the long-term solution which the Council of Ministers sought and failed to find at Athens is, on the face of it, in line with Britain's own argument that the crisis has to be settled as a whole and permanently. Yet Parliament's claim to be acting helpfully is hollow since its action discriminates against two individual states, Britain and Germany. In a resolution it passed in November it undertook to avoid such discrimination.

Indeed, logic might suggest that if the object is to force the Council of Ministers to reach agreement it would have been better to reject the Budget altogether. It is tempting to think that if the European Community can only settle its disputes by being brought to a brink, it might be better for it to be brought swiftly to a brink with a terrifying drop rather than to be led haltingly to a number of little brinks which irritate rather than terrify. Yet on balance the British government's view is that it would not have helped the Community at this stage for the Budget to be totally rejected. The

result would have been too much damaging dislocation.

Britain's position is that a startling enough brink will be reached anyway when the ceiling of 1 per cent of the VAT-based contributions is reached in 1984. It is going to be impossible to deal with this year's agricultural price negotiations because there will be no money for financing any price increases.

The European Parliament has chosen the end of March for its deadline because the next summit of Ministers will be held earlier that month and because it is the end of our financial year, by which time we require the rebate (and in previous years have got it). But what if no solution is reached by the Council of Ministers in March? The Parliament may keep the money frozen after its deadline, but if it did it is clear what the British government would and should do.

In Parliament yesterday, the Prime Minister said that in that event we should take action to safeguard our position - a formula she has used before. In plain language, that means we should withhold part of our contributions to the Community due for transfer from funds held in London. This action, to compensate for the loss to which Britain was subjected, really would be the brink and Mrs Thatcher will be right to make the Community face it. This must not be bluff and the other member states need to understand that what is said is meant.

WHEN CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

In peace and war information is power. It has always been so, since long before the age of telegraph or satellite television broadcasts. It was Aeschylus who first coined the phrase that truth is the first casualty of war, and even Napoleon was heard to observe that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". It is thus the natural instinct of government, at all times, to attempt to harness information to its purposes, and only more so when matters of national security are critically at stake. Journalists are aware that this desire conflicts with the traditional purpose of the press which is, as *The Times* sonorously declared more than 100 years ago, "to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation".

The Beach Committee, whose report on the protection of military information was published yesterday, had to consider the point at which, during an emergency, government, press and people can all roughly agree that the public interest would be better served by some inhibition on the freedom to publish. Most of the British press would accept that, while the public interest is best served by maximum disclosure, this cannot be an absolute condition, since we all recognize that the public interest already requires some statutory restriction on press freedom as, for instance, in the workings of the courts. So the principle does not need to be argued; it is where the line is drawn in the application of that principle that will

always, and rightly, provoke argument and concern.

The Committee observed that, in time of tension, it would not be possible to draw a very precise definition of "military information". Moreover, once the general principle had been accepted that some formal system of information control should be introduced in those circumstances, it must be left to the official authorities in the first instance to determine what information they feel needs to be protected from disclosure. Why should they be trusted to carry out such a task benignly? Why should the press and the public not assume that information will more often be withheld for political or bureaucratic convenience, than to save lives? What is to prevent this system being introduced unnecessarily, and then being abused?

These questions can never be answered unequivocally. Such a system, in other words, will only work at all if it starts off on a basis of reasonable trust between public, press and government. That trust should be initially secured by an acceptance that no such arrangement could be introduced until there had been a formal state of emergency, which would involve society in a wide range of consequences of which information control would only be one. Beyond that there would have to be trust by the press, cultivated over years of custom and practice, that the military authorities and their political masters operate a minimalist policy on information control, restricting the flow only when genuine operational needs require it in order to save lives.

TOO MUCH OF A SNIFF

The conviction this week in Glasgow of the Raja brothers for the sale to children of made-up "kits" for inhaling fumes from solvents has, naturally enough, led to a burst of press and public attention to glue sniffing. Sadly the fashion - for that is what the practice has become among some adolescents - is not new. It has been on the policy agenda for some time, and in a low-key way the Department of Health has taken steps to alert doctors and nurses to its growth and has convened conferences of policemen and researchers; most recently, and not before time, manufacturers of adhesives and retailers have been brought into the talks. This list, however, has a notable omission: parents.

There is a danger in the kind of moral panic seen this week, in the banner headlines, in the enthusiasm of backbench MPs to leap into the legislative swim, in the unfocused demand for action once a social breakdown has been discovered. The danger is that public disgust gets translated all too readily into a demand for the state to intercede, to absolve us all from the consequences of our and our dependents' actions. Manufacturers and retailers of potentially dangerous products (and there is an array of volatile substances on the shelves of newsagents and supermarkets that could be superbly carried off by children) are sometimes we leap too quickly for the regulatory shackles. One of the blessings of the shift in attitudes in Britain since 1979 is

a new consciousness of the limits of governmental action in the social sphere. Glue-sniffing, like the abuse by teenagers of other drugs, alcohol or tobacco, demands action in and by families. The rebuilding of parental responsibility as much as the behavioural problem itself should be the focus of policy.

Over the abuse of solvent based adhesives there must be no complacency. The figures for related deaths and injuries are an undeniable cause for concern, and the Department of Health gave reassuring sign in Mr John Patten's statement yesterday that measures are in hand, albeit within the voluntary framework already established. A programme of education for schools, clinics and shop-keepers is envisaged but the Department is right not to give it the trappings of a crusade and further glamorize the sniffing fashion. Are such measures enough?

It would certainly be wrong to extend the reach of the criminal law to either the act of sniffing or its results (for example new categories of disorderly conduct). The behaviour at issue, Mr Patten noted, varies from being simply a transient phase through which adolescents pass to a sign of a deeper disturbance in personality. Extending the role of social services departments is not required at this point, either. Scottish examples are provocative but have their limits: the Scottish system of children's courts and its tradition of social

work perhaps needed the buttress of the specific statute on solvent abuse passed earlier this year.

Yet, as the Government does acknowledge, there may be a case for new law governing the sale of substances with such an obviously harmful effect. The present policy is to pin faith on the cooperation of newsagents and hardware stores which sell glue. The shops concerned are, however, ill-organized; national federations may make injunctions that have no effect in the corner shop. Perhaps the pawky response of the Raja brothers in court - although they knew the commercial benefit of what they were doing, as was illustrated by the fact they kept gallon drums of glue in the basement along with a handy supply of crisp and plastic bags - is the obverse side of that large-scale, and welcome movement of Asian immigrants into small scale retailing.

At present a legal code governs the sale of alcohol to minors; it was recently extended to cover fireworks. Some further extension to cover certain volatile substances used for intoxicating inhalation - they are fairly easy to identify and proscribe - would do no great injury to trade or liberty. Banning the sale of solvents to minors need wreak no great havoc with Airfix construction nor model-building: genuine modellers would need enlist only a parent, other adult or older sibling. The case for such a ban is well worth examining.

Partnership in Antarctica

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article "South Atlantic Partners" (December 10) makes the constructive suggestion that the Falklands and their dependencies could, without any change of sovereignty, be turned into an Anglo-Argentine base for Antarctic exploration and development. But should you not take the proposal further?

Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand also have claims on the Antarctic continent and obvious interests due to geographical proximity.

Could we not develop your concept to include these other interested parties, perhaps at the joint invitation of Britain and Argentina? Other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty might also like to take part.

Once the new airfield on the Falklands is fully developed and the harbour facilities improved, the islands might well prove to be the most convenient base available for Antarctic exploration as well as the meeting ground on which cooperation might resolve existing differences between Britain and the Argentine and Chile.

The Antarctic continent is generally thought to be a prolongation of the Andes and the Southern African plateau. There is, therefore, a distinct possibility that the mineral wealth of both may exist under the permafrost. Discovering it and then extracting it would be a challenging task but no more than landing a man on the Moon.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
December 13.

Examination results

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt (December 8) and your leader (December 1) on the exam results research of the National Council for Educational Standards (NCES) are critical of Department of Education and Science officials, but avoid the main issue.

The real research interest lies in whether the type of school attended (comprehensive, grammar or secondary modern) affects the examination results of pupils with different individual characteristics and backgrounds. In such analyses it is essential to allow for differences in individual achievement prior to secondary school entry to avoid the possibility that examination result differences are merely reflecting entry selection policies.

The NCES research used school average exam results rather than individual data and had no measures of achievement prior to entry. Such deficiencies make it markedly inferior to the recent National Children's Bureau (NCB) study of examination results which had taken measures on individual children and found few important school type differences.

The recently published criticisms of the NCES research by officials at the DES, which now have been substantiated by analyses in *Statistical Bulletin 16/83* (*The Times*, December 10) pointed out that the NCES had made inadequate allowances for social class in studying the examination results. The analyses between Local Education Authorities, because their measurements are at school or at LEA level only, however, neither the DES nor the NCES analyses can contribute much of value to the debate over school type comparisons.

If further research is to be funded, then it would be more useful, and cheaper, to exploit the NCB data than to pursue the use of school examination results.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN, Chairman,
Department of Mathematics,
Statistics and Computing,
University of London,
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
December 12.

Calke Abbey

From Mr J. S. Bodfan Gruffydd

Sir, What is "heritage landscape"? The Government is in a great muddle over this. The Historic Buildings Council has collected information with a view to "listing" historic gardens and parks, while the Countryside Commission deals with more natural landscapes in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Gardens and parks are deliberately designed and planned, whereas national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty cover the more natural parts of our countryside. The criteria for judging the two types are distinct and different. In considering the Calke ambience, which is very much garden/park landscape, however, the Secretary of State appears to rely on advice of the Countryside Commission.

The writer was sufficiently concerned to examine the problem carefully on the ground. He found undeniable evidence of careful planning in the disposition of woods and copses, shelter belts and tree clumps across the farmed land right to distant horizons, deliberately planned as extensions of the park design. In fact, the distant views are vital factors in the protection of the aesthetic of the park immediately surrounding the Abbey.

Nowhere in this beautiful, enclosed landscape is a jarring note to be seen - no pylons, no motorways, no factory farm buildings. Once allowed this connected landscape out of the park ownership and there is no saying how soon the beauty and seclusion of this bit of our inheritance might be lost.

The arbitrary delineation of the "heritage landscape" boundaries of

Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, I read with interest David Watt's comments on December 9 about the film *The Day After*, and his speculation on whether the scientific prognosis of a nuclear winter is correct. Having participated in the background research in the United States during the past several months, I do not agree that there are "many uncertainties in the hypothesis" that warrant "understandable caution".

Both the physical and biological teams ran dozens of variations of their computerized models to check their findings, and they concluded that their analyses were reinforced time after time, with virtually no significant variations in the outcome. Whether we consider a 10,000-megaton or only a 1,000-megaton war, the results produce a nuclear winter. In certain circumstances a mere 100 megatons can trigger a similar phenomenon (Britain possesses more than 100 megatons).

The papers, being published in the major American journal *Science*, have undergone unusually rigorous appraisal through extensive peer review. If one can be permitted the phrase, there is an "overkill" of supporting evidence to justify the findings. Several independent research efforts have come up with parallel results.

To quote the summary of the biological paper, authored by 20 leading scientists from several countries: "It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere... the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the northern hemisphere".

All this reiterates a key question: Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

nuclear arms race into reverse? Perhaps the prospect of a nuclear winter will help us to achieve at least a nuclear freeze.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow,
Old Road,
Headington,
Oxford,
December 13.

From Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS

Sir, David Watt (December 9) has written about the aftermath of nuclear war and Carl Sagan's comment that the prospect of a "nuclear winter" frightens him more than *The Day After*.

A committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions is engaged in a study of this and longer-term effects than the immediate deaths following a nuclear exchange.

A workshop in Stockholm during November decided to re-examine the scenarios for different scales of nuclear exchange and conduct further research in several countries on atmospheric chemistry, climate change and biological effects. The next, on agriculture, will be in Delhi from February 9 to 11, 1984, and the one after in Leningrad in May.

General planning is being done by a steering group of leading scientists from the USA, USSR, France, Sweden, India and Japan, under my chairmanship. The Royal Society has financed a research assistant to work with me at the University of Essex, which has provided accommodation.

So far we have not had the "dog fight" nor the pause expected by David Watt. We have had to work hard to provide the discussion papers which scientists need for useful discussions and to start by concentrating limited resources on facts which can be agreed or further explored by experts.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK WARNER, FRS,
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment,
As from: Chemistry Department,
Essex University,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex,
December 9.

Housing priority

From Mr Charles Williams

Sir, Jamie Stevenson (Whitehall Notebook, December 7) is less than fair to the Department of the Environment. Regrettably the Treasury has not accorded public-sector housing investment, whether on new dwellings or improvements, the priority it deserves.

Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors at the DoE have, however, consistently encouraged councils to dispose of assets, council houses or land, pointing out that the more they sell the more they have to spend on additional investment. Some councils have significantly increased their housing expenditure by the use of capital receipts in this way.

Unfortunately the Government does not apply to its own transactions the same policies it applies to local authorities. The Chancellor made it clear in his autumn statement that the Government will be increasing significantly the sale of assets, mainly shares in state corporations.

Such sales of assets will not in any way be linked to increased investment; indeed the main use to which this finance will be put appears to be social security. Asset sales no longer are received as rapturously in the City as once they were; they are increasingly seen as a way of managing the public-sector borrowing requirement.

By contrast, a policy of linking increased asset sales with increased investment in those facilities which only the public sector can provide would seem logical to the financial community and would instil greater confidence in the Government's handling of the economy.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WILLIAMS,
National Council of Building Material Producers,
33 Alfred Place, WC1,
December 8.

Calke Park do more than threaten its viability for, inevitably, the inclusion of the (excluded) rented land would go some way to providing necessary endowment for the National Trust.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. BODFAN GRUFFYDD,
Black Hill,
Jubilee Drive,
Malvern,
Worcestershire,
December 7.

From Lord Perth

Sir, The correspondence to save Calke Abbey and the adjournment debate in the Commons on December 6 all point to the same conclusion: time is needed to work out a new scheme to preserve the house, its contents and park. And the tax bill is mounting up for the Harpur-Crewe trustees at around £1,200 a day.

Both trustees and Government are in a way to blame, for both took about a year to reach decisions.

Will the Government consider forgoing this sum for, say, four months with a deadline date? By this date a new scheme must be hammered out by one and all concerned, including the Government.

In the words of the Under-Secretary of State for the Environment: "The Government are prepared and willing to listen to and consider positive suggestions".

The deadline should stimulate the quick finding of a scheme to save Calke for future generations. Waiving of interest meantime could be counted as part of the limited public assistance already offered.

Yours truly,
PERTH,
House of Lords,
December 8.

State subsidies for the arts

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, Frank Johnson (December 13) quotes Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, asking the familiar question about the arts, "why is it so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public?" Let me try to answer.

From an economic point of view the live performing arts are an activity in which technology is static, so that labour productivity cannot be improved in line with advances in the surrounding economy. It takes just as long, and requires exactly the same equipment and labour, to play a Beethoven symphony today as it did when the work was first performed in 1810. But because the wages paid to non-volunteer musicians inevitably reflect the higher wage levels made possible since that time by technical progress elsewhere in the economy, activities which may have been viable in the market place in 1810 have long since ceased to be so (and even at that time they enjoyed special patronage).

Nevertheless, while the technology of performance has stood still, there has been great technical progress in the communication of performance: radio, gramophone records, television, video. The economic value to Britain of these technologies is indisputable: exports of films and television programmes in 1981 were worth £144m and in the same year earned £30m. There are also the earnings from tourism. Excellence in the live performing arts is essential to the vitality of these industries.

However, because of economic specialization there is no inbuilt mechanism, with the notable exception of the BBC, by which profits earned by communication are directed to nourishing the culture of performance upon which those profits depend. This is why live performance has come to rely on the transfer through state subsidy of a small portion of the taxes levied on those profits.

Of course we have to make decisions, which will be essentially arbitrary, about how much to spend on state subsidies to the arts, just as Prince Esterhazy had to allocate resources between his Kappellmeister and his kitchen. But in a truly educated society it would not be necessary to deploy the sort of means/ends argument of this letter to justify support for activities which are an end in themselves and in the enhancement of the life of all of them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons,
December 15.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis

Sir, Parliament can so easily create the simple and absolute (i.e., without proof of dishonesty) offences of taking goods from a shop without payment and make it triable only before magistrates. If such an offence is allowed to run side by side with theft, the prosecutor has a choice.

The real thieves are charged with theft; the absent-minded old folk with the lesser offence to which they can plead guilty without fear of social disgrace and take care not to do it again. Much distress and public expense will thereby be saved.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. L. JERVIS,
R&S-Vale,
St Buryan,
Penzance,
Cornwall,
December 9.

Missing the bus

From Mrs Fiona E. Hamilton

Sir, May I suggest that a possible solution to the plight of the villagers of Swanton Morley (report, December 9) might be the operation of a route taxi system?

As practised in some parts of the West Indies, this consists of a number of taxis licensed to operate on certain agreed routes, with pre-fixed fares per seat per journey. In this way the cost per person is kept down to a reasonable level and the taxi drivers can be expected to be quick to establish when there is the greatest demand.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA E. HAMILTON,
6 Redburn Street, SW3,
December 9.

manganese (which is wholly dependent on crude steel output) must consequently be lowered.

The economics of nodule mining depend on the existence of secure markets for all three major nodule constituents - cobalt, nickel and manganese. If demand for any one of them is as insecure as is that for manganese the economic case for nodule mining fails. Is it not, therefore, time for this country to cease obstructing the interests of those - such as the shipowners - for whom the Law of the Sea Treaty is of immediate and pressing concern? Yours faithfully,
PETER FARR,
O.W. Roskill Industrial Consultants,
2 Clapham Road, SW9,
November 21.

A fine point

From Mr P. J. Bourke

Sir, Are not an injunction to stop violent protest by CND at Greenham Common, and fines if they do not, as justified and necessary as those against the NGA at Warrington?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BOURKE,
Waverley,
Pickler's Hill,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
December 12.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Shipping (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the (admitted) imperfections of the clauses governing seabed mining.

The economic and commercial arguments for proceeding with the mining of deep-sea nodules at any time in this century are looking less and less plausible, however optimistic a view is taken of the prospects for general economic recovery.

During the last few years, the intensity-of-use of the basic industrial metals (the quantity needed for each unit of GDP) has fallen sharply. Some decline has historically happened in advanced economies and mature markets; the recent fall has, however, gone further and more quickly than the historical trend.

The inevitable consequence of this is that forecasts of demand for metals must be lowered.

We have in fact already seen this in the case of steel. As recently as 18 months ago, world demand for crude steel in 1990 was confidently forecast to be around 1,000 million tonnes; few authorities now expect it to be much over 800 million. Forecasts for consumption of

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tight money rein could give Reagan rough ride

The White House view is that the American economy will grow about 4.5 per cent next year. This projection has still to be stamped by President Reagan who will release it and other estimates in his 1985 budget message to Congress early in February. Administration economists working on the budget are convinced that this rate of growth can be achieved provided the US Federal Reserve Board does not keep money growth on too tight a rein. Their fears are not without foundation. The influential Mr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers predicted yesterday that the Federal Reserve would move quickly in 1984 to tighten monetary policy. This will result, in his opinion, in a slowing of economic growth until late 1984 and an erratic rise in US interest rates.

For several weeks senior Administration officials have expressed fears that the Fed may already have tightened policy too much in its effort to prevent a rekindling of inflation. They have warned the White House that because of the considerable length of time the economy needs to respond to the central bank's actions a sharp slowdown could become apparent in November, just two weeks before the presidential elections, when figures are released for the quarter ending September 30.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, reflected these fears in a speech this week at the Washington Press Club, in which he said: "The Fed wants to cool this economy before it overheats and we get inflation back. They have been tightening for the last six months. My concern is that they not overdo it."

The Administration economists are also reported to have forecast a huge federal budget deficit in the neighbourhood of \$200 billion. The prospect of a series of mammoth budget deficits is one reason why Mr Kaufman is looking for a rise in interest rates. He has lent his voice to calls for action to reduce the deficit. President Reagan, however, has ruled out a significant tax increase in his next budget. He said yesterday that he did not intend to raise taxes in 1984 but he left the door open for some sort of a "tax package" in later years.

Although both the president and Administration economists have played down the importance of Federal budget deficits, they were singled out specifically by Mr Jacques De Larosiere, head of the International Monetary Fund, in a speech in Chicago yesterday. Mr De Larosiere said a primary aim of the IMF in the coming year would be to force member nations to place special emphasis in reducing fiscal deficits which threaten to "crowd out" private investors just as the global recovery gathers momentum.

That should please Mrs Thatcher.

Stalemate at the Savoy

Trusthouse Forte went to great lengths yesterday to emphasize that it was not its current intention to make a further offer for Savoy Hotel. This rider came after THF, in agreement with the Takeover Panel, had disclosed that it had bought from the investment arm of S G Warburg, THF's merchant bank, a further 1.137

million Savoy A shares. The deal was struck on Friday and most of it was executed outside the market. THF would not reveal the price.

The additional shares raise THF's interest in the Savoy equity to 69 per cent. The number of votes it has rises from 40.2 per cent to 42.3 per cent.

Savoy Hotel's two-tier equity structure leaves THF in a unique position: two-thirds of Savoy profits and dividends fall to THF, but control still rests with Sir Hugh Wontner and the Savoy board who would prefer Lord Forte to fold up his tent and leave their gate. In March two years ago Lord Forte, (then Sir Charles) bid £58m and then £67m for Savoy Hotel - the company also owns the Connaught, Claridge's and the Berkeley - but the citadel did not fall. Nor will it as long as the B shares, which make up a small proportion of the share capital but a large part of the voting power (the A shares have a tenth of a vote whereas every five B shares carry 10 votes) remain in firm and friendly hands. The most important of these belong to Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, but Lady Ellerman's holding is the critical one. If Lord Forte could charm hers from her, he could be within an ace of winning the game.

Lord Forte appears to be as determined as ever to own Savoy Hotel but he has admitted that the present situation cannot continue indefinitely. It is a costly stalemate for THF and frustrating for the Savoy. The good so far that has come out of the clash is a much more determined and commercially successful Savoy management.

Invisibles: the unauthorized text

Two versions of a Department of Trade and Industry-sponsored report, *Success in Invisibles*, will be published today. The first, about 25 pages long, comes from the DTI itself. The second, from the author, Mr Andrew Tessler, is three times as long and contains criticisms that do not appear in the official text.

The report deals with all invisibles but it concentrates on the most dynamic sector of all: the professions - consulting engineers, architects, management consultants, surveyors, lawyers. Their overseas earnings have increased twentyfold in just over 10 years and are now worth £1 billion a year. At the present rate of growth, they would be worth £2 billion in six years.

The chances of that happening, Mr Tessler argues, are being diminished by the Government itself through the tax system.

Firms largely made up of partners are taxed on a personal basis. Nationalized industries, which have developed their own agencies are alleged to be under-cutting private sector firms by unfair means.

Mr Tessler found that British partnerships which find it virtually impossible to raise venture capital have to spend between £60,000 and £80,000 each time they want to bid for a new contract overseas. These down-payments, without any guarantee of success or return, have to be met out of taxed income. He cites instances where tax is levied twice on the same earnings.

New Argentine government calls for debt moratorium

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Dailly Morris

Argentina's new Government has asked its commercial bank creditors for a moratorium on debt payments, it emerged yesterday. However, there was confusion in banking circles over the exact nature of the request.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that Argentina wanted a six-month delay on payments on its \$40 billion external debt. But bankers in London suggested that a 90-day moratorium on principle payments was more likely.

Bankers interpreted the action of the civilian government, which formally assumed power only on Saturday, as a prelude to a new round of debt-rescheduling negotiations on which the new ministers wanted to stamp their mark.

London banking sources said that Argentina would want to defer signing public-sector debt-rescheduling agreements nego-

tiated by the previous government. It was likely to press for more favourable terms on the refinancing of \$4 billion to \$5 billion of public-sector debt maturities due in 1984 and 1985.

Senior Bernardo Grispun, Economy Minister, is reported to have said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina would postpone any new payments on its foreign debt until June 30, 1984. By that date, the country hoped to have completed reschedulings for 1984 maturities.

Although debt negotiation with the Argentines have caused considerable problems for the banks over the past year, bankers are reasonable about reaching new agreements with the civilian government. Indeed, the return to civilian rule has been seen as a hopeful sign.

But the road to stability has only just begun. The government must move quickly to restore order to a chaotic economy plagued not only by a big foreign debt but also by a lack of domestic spending priorities and by hidden costs from arms purchases made by the former military junta.

This was the assessment of senior US officials who returned this week from the inauguration ceremonies in Buenos Aires with a cautiously optimistic view of what lies ahead for President Raul Alfonsin's government.

US officials said that they were impressed by the his seasoned economic team and by his strong political commitment to a tough economic austerity programme designed to halve the huge deficit, estimated at 14 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Top priorities of the new government according to Mr McNamar will be to improve relations with commercial banks, which hold the bulk of its \$40 billion debt, and to put in place an economic programme acceptable to the International Monetary Fund.

This would involve settlement, through either legislation or court action, of a series of difficult legal questions which poisoned Argentina's relations with its foreign debtors during the Falklands war, Mr McNamar said.

It appears that the new government would need short-term financial help of only \$3 billion in new commercial funds in order to get the economy back on its feet before undertaking a full-scale restructuring of its outstanding foreign debt, he said.

Pound rally helps gilts

A recovering pound put new life into the gilt market yesterday. Despite being down by about 25p early in the day, gilts closed 12p up on the strength of sterling. The pound itself gained 55 points against the dollar at \$1.4225.

Meanwhile, the FT Index put up a firm performance, despite a weak opening on Wall Street. It closed 1.7 up at 752.8.

Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 752.8 up 1.7
 FT Gilts: 82.26 down 0.04
 FT All Shares: 483.65 up 0.36
 Bargain: 19.828
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.17 down 0.17
 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1241.26 down 5.39
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9462.48 up 61.26
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 869.88 down 4.88

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4225 up 55pts
 Index 82.0 up 0.2
 DM 3.9400 up 0.0175
 FF 12.0050 up 0.0525
 Yen 334.50 up 1.25
 Dollar Index 130.7 down 0.1
 DM 2.7670 up 0.0020

NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.4235
 Dollar DM 2.7705

INTERMARKET
 ECU0.754744
 SDR0.733505

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 9
 Finance houses base rate 9½
 Discount market loans week fixed 8½
 3 month interbank 9¼-9½

Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10½-10¾
 3 month DM 6½-6¾
 3 month FF 13¾-14¼

US rates:
 Bank prime rate 11.00
 Fed funds 9½
 Treasury long bond 9¾-9½

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 am \$388.50 pm \$389.75
 cont \$388.75-389.50 (£273.50-274.00)
 New York latest: \$381.75
 Kruggerand (per coin): \$400.50-402.00 (£281.75-282.75)
 Sovereigns (new): \$91.00-92.00 (£64.00-64.75)
 *Excludes VAT

Industry set to invest more

By Our Financial Staff

Government hopes that higher investment will help to keep the economy moving ahead as the impetus from consumer spending slackens were boosted yesterday by the latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Trade and Industry.

This shows that industry plans to step up investment by about 7 per cent in 1984 with an even sharper rise by the manufacturing sector. In manufacturing, capital spending, including investment financed through leasing, is expected to show a 9 per cent volume rise in 1984 compared with this year.

The DTI survey is considerably more optimistic than the predictions of the Confederation of British Industry and is a surprise to many outside forecasters.

It will be particularly welcome to the Government because recent figures have shown manufacturing production remaining flat and investment sluggish. Revised third-quarter capital spending figures issued yesterday disclose a fall of more than 1 per cent in manufacturing investment in the latest six months compared with six months earlier.

The DTI survey also suggests that there will be a further, though smaller, increase in the volume of investment in 1985.

However, the latest cyclical indicators for the economy published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office give no firm indication that the recovery is likely to gather pace.

Between July and October, the longer leading index, which is supposed to chart movements in the economy 12 months ahead, showed a decline. Incomplete information for November suggests a slight rise in the index.

Sterling recovers to \$1.42

By Our Banking Correspondent

Sterling clawed back some ground on the foreign exchanges yesterday, as further heavy intervention by the West German central bank helped to restrain the dollar.

Speculation of higher British interest rates also helped the pound - although there is no indication that the authorities are contemplating a rise - as did the previous day's news that BIOC has proposed no change in its North Sea oil prices for the first quarter of next year.

The pound closed up 55 points against the dollar at \$1.4225 and firmed against other leading currencies. It rose by 1½ pence against the Deutschmark to DM 3.94 and its trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies finished the day up 0.2 at 81.0.

Dealers believe the huge dollar sales by the German authorities to protect their currency will do little to change the underlying strength of the dollar, but they are nevertheless nervous of being caught out. The dollar closed in London yesterday only 20 points higher against the mark at DM2.7670.

The German central bank does not disclose the extent of its intervention in the open market, but it is believed to have spent well over \$500m in the past two days or so in trying to check the dollar.

Surprise £15m fall in Distillers profits

By Jeremy Warner

The Distillers Company, the Scotch whisky group, yesterday sprung a surprise on the City by announcing sharply lower half-year profits.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September fell from £80.2m to £64.9m, on sales £3.3m higher at £493m.

The company said last July that its profits would fall this year, but nobody foresaw the scale of the downturn.

The profits were struck after charges of £4.3m for redundancy and closure costs.

The chairman, Mr John Connell, said that trading profits in the second half were unlikely to compare favourably with the strong performance of the same period last year.

The company's share price fell 12p to 218p after news of the results, wiping £44m off the group's stock market value.

Mr Robert Temple, a Distillers' director, cited weak demand for whisky in the Latin American and Middle East markets as the main reason for the fall in profits.

The volume of sales to parts of these markets has as much halved so far this year. The effect of this on profits has been severe, since it was very high-margin de-luxe whiskies that tended to sell best in the once

buoyant markets such as Venezuela and Mexico.

In most other areas of the world, Distillers has done no worse than the industry as a whole and, in some markets, notably the United States, it claims to have done better.

The strength of the dollar has had a dramatic impact on the profitability of exports to the US. Profits are said to be about £5m higher than they would have been had last year's exchange rates ruled at the end of September.

The group gave a cautious indication that the worse may now be over for the Scotch industry. Recent reports from a number of markets suggest that the decline in consumer demand is levelling off and the company is hoping for a gradual recovery next year.

In contrast to the poor performance from whisky, the group's much smaller white spirits business improved trading profits, helped by a big rise in exports of Tanqueray gin to the US. The product is now challenging Beefeater as the top selling imported gin in the US.

United Glass, the group's 50-per-cent-owned glass container manufacturing company, reported a £4m loss after providing for rationalization costs.

London Brick in £8m deals

London Brick is buying two small regional brickmakers for £8.25m in line with its policy of trying to build a fifth force in the non-flinton facing brick market. The company has a monopoly of flinton brick making, but has only a small share of the market for other bricks.

It is paying £6.25m in cash for the Milton Hall Brick Company, a subsidiary of the Southend Estates property group. Milton is a leading producer of "London stock bricks".

It is also paying £2m, mainly in shares, for Cloughton Manor Brick, a leading manufacturer in North-west England of frost resistant bricks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Request by Allianz rejected

Eagle Star has given a final rejection to requests from Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, for further information about its business. Allianz had said that failure to supply the information could result in its offering Eagle Star shareholders a lower price for their shares.

But Eagle Star's chairman, Sir Denis Mountain has declined to disclose details of the company's 1984 budget, saying it was impossible to quantify the effect of a change of control on the group's business and that provision of the figures could lead to them being treated with a degree of accuracy that would be inappropriate.

● The pay of Mr Michael Hollingbery, the chairman and chief executive of Comet Group, the electrical retailer, increased from £72,000 to £122,000, excluding pension contributions, last year. The salary of the unnamed highest paid director increased from £83,000 to £194,000. The increases follow last year's record profits of £19.5m.

● Unigate's profits increased from £15.3m to a record £23.6m in the first half of the year on a turnover up from £787m to £855m. The interim dividend has been increased from 2.5p to 2.75p.

● Rediffusion Simulation, owned by British Electric Traction, yesterday announced its first big contract with British Airways for a full flight simulator for its new Boeing 737s. The £4.5m order was the first contract won by the British company from BA in several years, and came only after it dislodged a Canadian rival during several months of negotiations.

WALL STREET

Losses increase

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589.

General Motors fell ¼ to 73¼, Honeywell was off ½ at 134¼, Texas Oil down ¼ at 42¼, Getty Oil up ¼ to 78¼, Exxon ¼ lower at 37¼, International Business Machines off ¼ at 120¼ and Union Carbide unchanged at 62¼.

Reed questions bid rebuff

By Jonathan Clare

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in Stenhouse Holdings to ask their board and its financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable".

The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted.

Reed also tells shareholders

Private producers attack Minister

Steel sell-off 'going too slowly'

By Edward Townsend
 Industrial Correspondent

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatisation of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Lamont was criticised at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands.

He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever.

"We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at



Norman Lamont: "Difficult to find private-sector cash"

be rationalized. Plans are already well advanced for a "Phoenix" company covering the engineering steels sector, to be formed from public and private interests. But that would still leave 10 per cent of BSC products competing with the private sector.

Meanwhile, talks have once again been postponed between the BSC and United States Steel over the proposed controversial joint venture to sell Scottish steel slabs to United States Steel's Fairless finishing mill.

A final decision was expected after a meeting on Wednesday in New York between Mr Robert Haslam, BSC chairman, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of United States Steel. But, according to a brief BSC statement, "a final outcome has not yet emerged".

A conclusion is expected to be reached in January.

Steel production in Britain's public and private sectors averaged 310,000 tonnes a week in November, a rise of 2.5 per cent on the previous month and 31.6 per cent up on a year ago. For the first 11 months of the year, output averaged 292,200 tonnes a week, a rise of 7 per cent on the depressed levels of 1982.

ICI sells stake in Vantona

By Michael Clark

ICI finally severed its connections with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella.

The group is selling 7 million shares in the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valuing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant bank N. M. Rothschild and the broker Hoare Govett.

ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year.

Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered to close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing.

It now looks as though the textile industry is starting to pull clear of the recession. Yesterday Mr Alliance, chairman of Vantona Viyella, took the opportunity to forecast a leap in pretax profits for the present year from £4.3m to £11m.

Mr Alliance said that he was pleased with ICI's decision to sell, having wanted it to place the stake.

ICI says that one reason for selling now was to help improve the group's tax position as the financial year draws to a close. But the group was known to have been unhappy with its investment: it had supported the loss-making Carrington Viyella for years.

Mr Alliance intends to take up 250,000 of the shares on offer. This is in addition to the shares he will be entitled to take up as Vantona's biggest shareholder.

PROFIT UP

40%

Interim dividend increased by 15%

| | Unaudited half year 30.10.83 | Unaudited half year 31.10.82 | Audited year 1983 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Turnover | 348.0 | 319.4 | 641.8 |
| Operating profit | 35.3 | 28.6 | 52.0 |
| Pre-tax profit | 31.6 | 22.5 | 41.1 |
| Dividend per share | 1.73p | 1.50p | 4.66p |
| Earnings per share | 7.7p | 4.8p | 9.4p |

Extracts from the Directors' Interim Statement:

- ★ The Company has enjoyed a successful six months' trading
- ★ Turnover rose by 9%
- ★ Pre-tax profit increased by 40%
- ★ Beer sales helped by good summer... canned beer business continued to grow
- ★ Thistle Hotels operating profit up 90%
- ★ Borrowings continued to fall on rising investment programme

Copies of the full Interim Report may be obtained from the Secretary, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc, Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8YS. Telephone: 031-556 2591



Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs at Banking Corporation

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purvis, at present executive director Banking, will succeed Mr P. E. Hammond as deputy chairman next May. Mr Robert Farrell, at present group staff controller, will join the board, also in May, as an executive director. Mr Hammond will retire at the ordinary yearly general meeting on May 8.

Martin The Newagent: Mr Bill Mitchell will join the board as personnel director from January 16.

Crescent Japan Investment Trust: Mr Ian Macdonald will join the boards of Crescent Japan and New Tokyo Investment Trust on January 1.

The English Association Trust: Mr James Cave will be a director from January 19. He will be in charge of the investment division and will be the managing director of The English Association Investment Management.

Marsk Company: Mr A. B. Marshall has been appointed vice-chairman.

Wells Fargo Bank: Mr Richard Borda, executive vice-president, has been made head of the Europe/Africa/Middle East division, headquartered in London. He succeeds Mr William Wright.

Save & Prosper Investment Management: Mr Chris Tracey is to be managing director.

Argyll Group: Following the completion of the merger of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products, Mr C. D. Smith will be group financial controller and company secretary.

Argyll Foods and finance director of Argyll Stores in place of Mr Smith. Mr J. P. Kinch is appointed assistant group company secretary of Argyll Group and company secretary of Argyll Foods and of Amalgamated Distilled Products.

National Bedding Federation: Mr Patrick Quigley has become chief executive.

Singer & Friedlander: Mr B. D. F. Mansfield has been appointed a managing director and Mr W. H. Wright a local director from January 1.

Opposition grows to the President's unwillingness to tackle the huge US deficit

The world waits for Reagan to defuse an economic time bomb



Martin Feldstein (left) and Robert Dole (centre): two vociferous critics of Reagan.

The United States budget deficit is at record levels, and is almost universally regarded by politicians and economists in Europe as the single most important barrier to sustained worldwide economic recovery. Influential critics both inside and outside the Reagan Administration are adding their voices to the criticism of Mr Reagan's economic policy. But 1984 is an election year, with Mr Reagan now having declared himself as a candidate. BAILEY MORRIS in Washington assesses the political climate for this crucial economic debate.

How long is too long to wait in correcting the crippling world effects of a huge United States budget deficit projected at \$200 billion and above for the next five years?

Four months ago, flushed with the success of recovery, no one in Washington was asking this provocative question.

But in recent weeks, as concern has grown, the US deficit has come to be regarded as an economic time bomb which must be defused before it explodes.

But when? Can action by Congress and the Reagan Administration wait until after the elections in 1985 as the President has proposed? Increasingly, and in louder voices, a bi-partisan group of officials and economists has said no.

What is wrong with waiting until 1985 to take the politically unpopular step of raising taxes and cutting domestic programmes to reduce the deficit?

In the words of Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's outspoken economics adviser, the problem is this: "The longer you wait, the more difficult it is for the economy to absorb the kinds of changes in government spending and taxes."

Enacting the budget in 1985 rather than now would inevitably mean a slow phase-in of deficit reductions and, therefore, a more unbalanced recovery, Mr Feldstein said. This would lead to less capital formation, bigger increases in the national debt and, eventually, higher interest rates.

It is precisely these fears which fuel the growing opposition among Republicans who

swept to victory during the last presidential elections on the promise of a balanced budget and sustained economic growth. Mr Robert Dole, the powerful chairman of the Senate finance committee, is prominent among them. Despite strong White

'Delaying reducing the budget will lead to a less balanced recovery'

House opposition, he held an unusual set of hearings last week to focus national attention on the threatened budget deficits.

"I regard the deficit as the most important domestic issue facing Congress and I fear there is a real danger of political stalemate in the coming year," Mr Dole said.

In the Dole camp and

elsewhere, there is the perception that President Reagan is playing his political fiddle while the US economy burns. They note that in doing nothing, the President has repeatedly stated his belief that the deficit would go away in time as the recovery continues.

The President's critics fear that the recovery will go up in smoke if action is not taken now to reduce the deficits in 1986 and the years beyond.

They foresee a steady rise in the deficit to \$280 billion by fiscal 1989. Interest payments on this extra debt alone are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$30 bn - \$100 bn a year.

According to Mr Feldstein: "Just to finance that additional interest would require a tax increase at 1988 levels of 15-20 per cent on top of the personal income taxes which are already in place."

For these outspoken remarks, Mr Feldstein was very nearly

fired a fortnight ago by White House officials who ordered him to keep his views to himself in the months ahead.

But other equally prominent economists have taken up this cause.

Mrs Alice Rivlin, an econo-

Various efforts to cut the deficit are predicted to get nowhere

mist who recently stepped down as director of the Congressional Budget Office, said: "Waiting until 1985 to take action on the deficit entails the risk of having to wait until after the next new recession. By 1985, growth will have slowed substantially and perhaps even turned negative."

Mrs Rivlin's successor, Mr Rudy Penner, a highly respected Republican economist with

strong ties to the Reagan administration, last week said more or less the same thing. According to Mr Penner: "The mathematics are in place for an explosion. The longer we wait the more serious the problem."

He estimated that the cost of financing the national debt will rise by \$56 billion between fiscal years 1982 and 1986, and would exceed substantially the level of standby tax increases proposed by President Reagan in his 1984 budget.

Despite these repeated warnings, both President Reagan and Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic leader of the House, have opposed strongly the interim deficit reduction programmes proposed by both parties for 1984.

Mr Dole has proposed a deficit package which would reduce it by \$150 billion over four years through equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases.

Earlier, a group of House Democrats tried and failed to build support for a programme of defence and social spending cuts coupled with tax increases for a total reduction of about \$250 billion. Similar deficit reduction efforts will be proposed again when Congress reconvenes in January. But already it is predicted they will not get anywhere.

Mr Dole said: "Without strong leadership from both President Reagan and Mr O'Neill neither those who favour budget cuts nor those who favour tax increases will budge."

The Administration, now hard at work on its 1985 budget, has said it has little interest in an interim compromise package to be enacted in 1984. The result of this stalemate is likely to be a growing loss of confidence in the Administration's commitment to reducing the huge structural deficit predicted up to 1989.

This is expected to have an immediate effect, translating into a slower recovery in the US which would have negative effects in Europe and elsewhere.

According to Mr Feldstein: "If we saw a resolution of the budget situation now, the confidence that would create would make it possible to live with large budget deficits in 1984 and 1985. If we do nothing now, and the confidence is not there, then the actual performance of the economy in 1984 and 1985 is going to be much worse."

BET profits up a sharp 17%

By Philip Robinson

British Electric Traction, which takes in house building, newspapers, television and transport, yesterday reported a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. It was the first significant increase for at least three years.

Announcing the figures, Mr Hugh Dundas, BET chairman, said: "In our last annual report I predicted that our pre-tax profits would start to climb away from their plateau."

For the six months to the end of last September group turnover rose 8 per cent to £610m on which pre-tax profits of £31.7m were earned against profits of £27m last time.

Profits were much in line with the predictions of market analysts and BET's price eased 1p to 265p. The price has risen this year from a low of 166p.

The sharp movement has been inspired by market expectations of a takeover bid since bidding for conglomerates looked like becoming fashion earlier this year.

Some analysts said yesterday that they did not believe BET

would become a takeover target, but the threat has awakened the company from a six-year sleep during which full-year profits fluctuated between £60m and £70m.

This year's opening-half performance implies full-year earnings of a record £80m. BET has raised the interim dividend by 21 per cent to 2.25p.

Most of the increased opening-half profit came from the group's construction interests where pre-tax profits rose from £1.5m to £7.3m.

Industrial services managed to push up profits from £7.2m to £7.9m, while BET's transport interests rose 26 per cent to £7.6m. However, in electronics which includes BET's stake in Rediffusion, pre-tax profits fell by more than a fifth to £6.1m. Profits in publishing are unchanged at £1.9m and leisure sector profits increased by 26 per cent.

Last month, BET announced a £300m Wembley development in partnership with a specially formed consortium.

Market listing for McCarthy & Stone

By Jonathan Clare

McCarthy & Stone, the builder of sheltered housing for the elderly, is to get a full stock market listing 18 months after it made its debut on the Unlisted Securities Market. The company is also asking its shareholders for more than £12m to finance a big expansion plan during the current year.

Last year McCarthy, which enjoys a high stock market rating because of the lead it holds in its specialist market, increased its profits from £2.1m to £3.7m.

The better than expected results follow much higher sales than expected of its flats for the first half, sales accelerated sharply in the second half to 303 with a similar rate of growth expected this year. The growth is the result of increasing demand for this type of housing and of McCarthy's increased geographical coverage which is now almost nationwide.

The rights issue will reduce the stakes held by the McCarthy and Stone families from 76 per cent to 62 per cent. The cash is likely to be quickly eaten up by developments and gearing could be 90 per cent by the end of the year.

Sales of flats during the first three months of the current year totalled 195 compared with just 85 for the same period last time. The field is becoming more competitive with some of the big house builders like Barrat moving in but McCarthy is ready to manage developments on their behalf.

It is also considering building nursing homes for the elderly which would accommodate old people who become too infirm to live in the standard flats.

The dividend has been increased from 2p to 3.5p. The yield is only 1.4 per cent with the shares down 5p at 365p. The terms of the rights issue are one to four at 300p.

BIG TOP

AIRLINES

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare

Trippier, the chairman of the British Electric Traction (BET) group, has announced a £300m expansion fund to finance the group's ambitious plans for the future. The fund will be used to finance the group's expansion into new areas of the economy, including housing, transport and electronics. Trippier said that the fund was a testament to the confidence of the group's shareholders in his leadership and in the group's future prospects.

TAKE YOUR BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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هكذا من الأصل

Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare

Mr David Trippier, the minister for small business, has given a powerful personal endorsement to a new community-based fund set up to pump cash into local businesses in North East Lancashire using the Business Expansion Scheme.

Mr Trippier said that the new fund, which is in his own constituency of Rossendale and Darwen, is the first fund to be set up in the spirit of the Chancellor's intentions when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme had so far been monopolised by the big funds. He hoped that by February there would be two or three more locally-based funds set up under the initiative of local enterprise agencies.

Since the Business Expansion Scheme was announced last March, 27 City-based funds have been set up to take advantage of the generous tax concessions it makes available. But many of these schemes have been criticised for the high management charges, the cost to the companies which use their cash and frequent demands for options over the shares and a seat on the board. The new fund, the Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund (VET), is run by local businessmen who draw no salary for their work. It intends to invest £500,000 in local firms. Investors will pay no initial management charge, although there will be a half-yearly administration charge of one per cent.

The VET scheme has been set up jointly by the Rossendale Enterprise Trust and the Blackburn and District Enterprise Trust.

Mr Trippier also suggested that it might be possible to set up similar schemes in rural areas such as the South West, through the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira).

The VET scheme already has £250,000 promised and expects to be fully invested by April when the tax year ends. Individuals are expected to invest between £20,000 and £100,000.

Most of the big funds only consider investments in "big" small firms, unless they are particularly exciting "greenfield" projects which carry high risks and high rewards. They would not normally invest less than £100,000 which cuts off



Les Seaney (left) with Douglas Herbison and Professor John Dawson

Small retailers set for a fairer deal

By Derek Harris

There is good news this week for the small retailer who feels that he gets far less attention from government than the manufacturers who are in the majority among small businesses.

There are moves in the EEC which could go some way to shifting the balance in favour of the shopkeepers with a prospective impact in Britain as much as elsewhere in the Community. It comes as the British Government has indicated in its White Paper on regional policy that more help will now be channelled towards the services sector although how far this will be extended to retailing as such has yet to be clarified.

EEC financial aid programmes, will for the first time cover the service industries, including retailing. There also appears to be a fair wind, with endorsement by the Council of Ministers still to come, for a code of conduct on small and medium-sized businesses which would lay an obligation on Brussels and national governments to make sure that policies do not actively harm small business operations.

The moves were welcomed by Mr Douglas Herbison, secretary general of the European Confederation of Retailing, who is also manager of European operations for the Retail Consortium, trade body for more than 100 British retailers.

He was chairing this week in London the third of five regional conferences organised by the Consortium on problems of small and medium-sized retailers and EEC funded as part of the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. He said: "Clearly the EEC is more aware now of the importance of retailing in the context of helping small businesses and perhaps more than is the British Government."

One upshot of the five conferences will be an analysis of small retailers' problems and so far the list looks similar to that drawn up by the National Chamber of Trade (NCT), according to Mr Herbison. Disparity of discounts is between those commanded by big multiple grocery chains and the little man is one. Another is the need for vocational training schemes for the many going into retailing with no grasp of what they are taking on. More exemptions from Value Added Tax are widely called for.

High rents and the local authority rates based on them are one of the biggest problems, according to Mr Les Seaney, director general of the NCT. He said: "Small businesses are being squeezed out, including the small specialist retailers which offer things the big chains cannot."

He argues there is a social argument for positive discrimination in favour of the smaller outlets, with specific allocations to them in shopping developments with reasonable rent and rate levels.

Numbers of small retailers have been falling for years, with the rate of decline quickening in the seventies, followed by some limited evidence of a slower decline over the past three years, according to John Dawson, professor of distributive studies at the University of Stirling.

The dynamism of the sector comes out in the high annual birthrate of 25,000. But death rates are nearly the highest for any sector. Reversing the decline in small retailing businesses depends more on altered attitudes among those running the businesses than on direct Government policy, he suggests. But he adds: "Government initiatives could well provide the tonic to speed recovery."

Changes in the small firms loans guarantee scheme, including widening its scope more to medium-sized enterprises, are being called for by the Small Business Bureau, writes Derek Harris.

Michael Grylls, the Bureau chairman, who is Tory MP for Surrey North West, is pressing the case in the House of Commons, urging that the upper loan limit under the scheme should go from £75,000 to £250,000.

"This would allow medium-sized businesses with their greater capital needs to benefit from the scheme with the bonus that such companies because of their greater size would tend to generate more jobs than a smaller business," said Mr Grylls.

He is also urging that the 3 per cent premium charged on loans should be abolished. Under the scheme 80 per cent of a loan advanced by a

bank is guaranteed by the Government. The loan guarantee scheme is running on an experimental basis at present and a review is going on to decide its future beyond next May. The number of guarantees given under the scheme since June 1981 is now around 15,000 with well over £400m advanced.

British Institute of Management has put together an easy-to-understand guide to setting up in business. The approach is a nuts-and-bolts one covering all the key considerations from finance sources and marketing accounting systems and taxation. It explains how to put together a business plan.

The guide comes as a pack with additional guidelines on where to get help and advice, with a series of checklists for detailed aspects of a new business. It costs £5.50 including postage.

Since then the company has made the choice not to expand meteorically with the market. He offers two pieces of advice. The first: don't grow on borrowed money. The second: build up the staff and infrastructure on money already earned and don't buy in staff on what you might achieve.

"Everyone goes on about cash flow management. But the reality is that that is the only way to do it successfully. Once you are indebted to the local bank manager, the internal pressures are enormous. The man never has his foot out of the door," he said.

Much the same problem faces James Hay Pension Trustees. They run a private company whose shares are currently being placed by stockbroker Scrin-gour, Kemp-Gee to its private clients.

Since the Government recently allowed self-administered company pension funds to invest 50 per cent in the business, plant and offices, demand has really rocketed. Mr John Bevan, the chairman, says his company's problem was not so much money as the internal infrastructure to support the expansion. "After we moved up to London (from Cardiff) we found ourselves getting involved in all kinds of projects for our clients. BES schemes, joint-developments and the like until one day we discovered we just weren't meeting our targets for new business."

After stressing their business plan, James Hay Pension Trustees say they are now looking for professional advisers.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Pressure to push up loan limit

Changes in the small firms loans guarantee scheme, including widening its scope more to medium-sized enterprises, are being called for by the Small Business Bureau, writes Derek Harris.

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Contact: Gillian Collingridge, British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT; telephone (01) 405 3466.

by Members of the Clothing and Knitting Export Councils into a single body, the Clothing Export Council, has resulted in a

comprehensive service being offered to members on export sales and marketing. A buyer service is being specially strengthened.

Contact: Clothing Export Council, Arden House, 26-28 Saville Street, London W1K 2QT; telephone (01) 434 1881.

A successful 18-month pilot scheme in Huddersfield has prompted Ardenage & Norton, one of the top 20 chartered accountants by fee income, to start extending a low-price "nursery" scheme for giving accountancy help to new small businesses. The Leeds-based accountants, with a nationwide network of offices, are extending the scheme to other outlets in the North East at Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Leeds. A further extension to other offices in the North West, Scotland, the Midlands and the South, is likely in the near future.

Until a business is established, when it reaches the stage of appointing a full-time accountant, all rates charged are at a discount. First consultations, often involving a day including visits, are free. The aim initially is to create a book-keeping system providing key management information tailored to the individual business.

The bank manager with a foot in the door

By Wayne Lintott

The problems of small businesses seeking to expand are legion but a straw poll of companies on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and merchant banks and venture capital advisers shows that the biggest cause of insolvency is under-capitalization at the time of the first phase of major expansion.

The other big problem is poor marketing research coupled with a too-strong dependency on a local clearing bank. CPU Computers is a respected company within the USM market, having grown from a black bank account over the last ten years. Its principal business is the distribution of computer components but it has recently begun manufacturing its own business computer.

In the last financial year turnover reached £20m and pre-tax profits rose 56 per cent to £1.35m. Some time over the next financial year the company intends seeking a full stock market listing.

Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, is joint chairman and co-founder, and the thought of reflecting back over his initial problems causes a wry smile. "In year one we had trouble getting any form of bank support at all. We were offered overdraft facilities of £3,000 rising to £5,000 if we both put our houses up as security. I can't repeat our reply to a family newspaper."

So Mr Fitzpatrick took the opposite tack. "Our solution was to write out a business plan showing our ideas, where we wanted to go, how much it would cost and our overdraft need of £15,000. Then we just walked round every clearing bank branch in Woking, Surrey, until we found NatWest, a manager prepared to support us. In the end we didn't use it, but it gave the necessary credit references for our suppliers. Once we had that and compiled it



Tom Fitzpatrick: the way to find the money

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building up the administrative structure to support the expansion. Once again from money earned, not money borrowed.

Of the forms of financing available to the company, James Hay chose equity rather than bank loans. Having done that, they have similarly prepared a three-year plan that is flexible enough to allow for delays on receivables.

"You know what the minimum receivables are going to be and, no matter what you hope for, you have to work on that figure and no other," Mr Bevan said.

Mr Charles Duff, a director at Venture Founders, whose £12m fund for new start-ups and pure greenfield projects was recently launched, stressed the importance of a business plan and defining a narrow market in which to operate.

His company has a client that entered into a dramatic expansion and rapidly became insolvent. The rescue money amounted to £2m. Luckily, that company had Venture behind it and the money was raised from City institutions with the necessary management back-up hired in.

But that is a rare occurrence. All too often a company will be able to raise the capital to get off the ground only to find that the second tranche of much needed cash is either difficult to get or comes with too many strings.

Next week looks at the dos and don'ts of presenting a business plan, raising money and the role of professional advisers.

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or
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or
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be holding office at the address of
the company, who will be holding
office at the address of the company.

LEGAL NOTICES

WHITFIELD Limited and THE
COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given pursuant to
Section 253 of the Companies Act
1948 that a meeting of the
CREDITORS of the above named
company will be held at the
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LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of JENKINS Limited
and the matter of THE COMPANIES
ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the
CREDITORS of the above named
company are required to submit
proofs of their claims to the
Liquidator of the company, who
will be holding office at the
address of the company, who will
be holding office at the address of
the company, who will be holding
office at the address of the company.

FOOD AND WINE

The Gourmet's Progress at the
Belfry Club

Smoked Breast of Turkey with Mayflower Sauce
or
Venison Pate with Port Wine Jelly
or
My Sister's Day Before Kipper Salad
or
Saint Sophia's Mustard Soup
or
Black Forest Wild Mushroom Broth
or
Hot Cream of Avocado Soup
or
The Lethal Tinned Salmon Kettle
with White Wine
or
The Lamb and Kidney Napping Pudding
Sprouts and Chestnut Jubilee
or
The Roast Barn of Charolais
with a Market Gazelle
or
Fried Wildcat Pudding and Cream
or
The Mould Canned Ice Bombe
A Bonfire of Burton Plum Pudding

The Three Kings Play Homage. Coconut Knees-Fruit-Nuts

West Halkin St, off Belgrave Square, London SW1
Telephone: 01-235 4422 Reservations
01-235 9626 Membership

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WHITFIELD Limited and THE
COMPANIES ACT 1948

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.00 **Celebrity** All News and information service, available on all television sets, with teletext or not.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. Today's "Friday" special: include pop news (between 7.45 and 8.00), Eytan Eytan's health phone-in (8.30-8.50) and Glynis Christie's food and cookery report (8.45-9.00). regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30.

9.00 **My Music** Steve Race tells the musical knowledge of Frank Muir, John Amis, Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (r).

9.30 **Play School** with Peter and Sue. Story Clocks and More Clocks: 10.55 Play School with Chloe Ashcroft; 11.05 Closedown.

2.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodall; 12.57 **Football Report**. And subtitled news.

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**: Caring for the plants that make Christmas gifts. A Christmas gift: 4.50. Little Miss and the Mistletoe for the toddlers.

2.00 **The Big Time**: The Southsouse curate (the Rev Taffy Davies) who was given the chance to be a Fleet Street cartoonist (r).

2.30 **Cartoon**: The cartoonist (r). The cartoonist (r). The cartoonist (r).

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tv-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's "Friday" special: include Checkmate (8.45, 9.00), Viewers' Views on the Monday (8.50) and Open Dora (8.45). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 9.00; sport (8.35 and 7.35). Today's papers (6.25). John Stapleton's Spotlight (7.05) and Competition Time (8.25).

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines**. Followed by *Seaside Street*: the Muppets help children up the tree of knowledge; 10.25 *Wild in Winter*: Winter sports film, with David Wilkie; 10.50 *At the Cinema*: *Gliding*: Hints from Leon Moberg; 11.05 *The Dazzle*: Eddie O'Brien reads her story; 11.30 *Film Fun*: The Movie: Derek Griffiths and film clips (r).

12.00 **We'll Tell you a Story**: with Christopher Lillicrap (r); 12.10 *Rainbow*: repeated at 4.00; 12.30 *Understanding*: Toddlers: The limits that both parents and children impose. With Anna Ford.

1.00 **News**: 1.20 *Thames area news*; 1.30 *Afternoon*: *Pontus Pile's Bodyguard*: Pages from the history of the Royal Scots (350 years old this year); 2.00 *Private Gentleman*: American army comedy series, starring Lorna Patterson.

2.30 **Snooker**: First semi-final of the *Moira World Doubles* (starts at 11.00pm); 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*: Australian drama series.

4.00 **Children's ITV**: *Rainbow* (r); 4.20 *Dangerousness*: The Planet of the Cats: episode five (r); 4.25 *Spotlight*: 4.50 *Spotlight*: All the fun of the Freestyle circus; 5.15 *The Young Doctors*: Australian hospital life.

5.45 **News from ITN**: 6.00 *The 6 o'clock Show*: News of the day; 6.15 *News*: and studio guests.

7.00 **Family Fortunes**: Tonight's competing are the Crows from Birley, Durham, and the Stewarts from Wincan, Swanssea. With Max Bygraves.

7.30 **Film**: *Man About the House* (1974) Cinema version of the TV comedy series co-starring Richard O'Sullivan and Paula Wilton. A comedy about a student (O'Sullivan) who shares a flat with two girls in an Edwardian terrace house.

8.00 **News**: 8.15 *News*: and studio guests.

8.30 **News**: 8.45 *News*: and studio guests.

9.00 **News**: 9.15 *News*: and studio guests.

9.30 **News**: 9.45 *News*: and studio guests.

10.00 **News**: 10.15 *News*: and studio guests.

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12.30 **News**: 12.45 *News*: and studio guests.



Klaus Kinski: Nosteratu the Vampire (Channel 4, 11.15pm)

11.15 **News**: 11.25 *News*: and studio guests.

11.45 **News**: 11.55 *News*: and studio guests.

12.15 **News**: 12.25 *News*: and studio guests.

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8.45 **News**: 8.55 *News*: and studio guests.

HEARTATTACK HOTEL (BBC 2, 9.25pm)

Andrew Davies' black comedy, is a horror play, though I must tell you that it will not be the right one for Christmas if you happen to think, with Leigh Hunt, that Yuletide is the time of too much everything but thinking. Over-indulgence, says this unseasonable play, can play the devil that you will not be around to see any more. Christmas. I need only refer you to the title of Mr Davies' play if you should accuse me of giving too much away when I say that "Nothing succeeds like excess" could well be the slogan of the gruesome twosome who run the luxurious hotel to which problem cases are drawn like moths towards a flame. But much more.

11.15 **News**: 11.25 *News*: and studio guests.

11.45 **News**: 11.55 *News*: and studio guests.

12.15 **News**: 12.25 *News*: and studio guests.

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6.45 **News**: 6.55 *News*: and studio guests.

7.15 **News**: 7.25

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The Princess of wails

badly. Minister au Bolsover, hobbled himself.

"There is a disease for which there is no known cure," Dr Owen observed, "and that is what the hon member for Bolsover suffers from: verbal diarrhoea."

Dr Owen went on. He accused Mrs Thatcher of grave abuse, and of making a joke.

"I know we are getting close to Christmas," he observed, "the Speaker, in connexion with the speaking in particular, except Christmas Mrs Thatcher denied everything. Good temper was not restored until the House got onto the subject of glue sniffing. Dr Owen walked out. Mr Skinner left in search of a second opinion."

[illegible]

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| Some News | 24 | Postcard |
| Shirley | 29 | Postcard |
| Miss | 16 | |

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